

Brownell Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes
04/15/2025

Brownell Trustees in attendance: Christine Packard, Sheila Porter, Jessica Dow, Gabrielle Stevenson, Dottie Bergendahl, Karen Hergesheimer, Venessa Luck, Jeanne Grant, Helen Donahey, Wren Bright, Alex Carmical

Brownell Staff in attendance: Wendy Hysko, River West

Other attendees: None

Jeanne called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda changes and deletions: Jeanne indicated that the motion, "I move that the Library Trustees enter into executive session to discuss a personnel evaluation, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(3) to include the Library Trustees and Library Director" be amended to read "I move that the Library Trustees enter into executive session to discuss a personnel evaluation, pursuant to 1 V.S.A § 313(a)(3) to include Library Trustees."

Public to be heard: None

Announcements: The Board welcomed new Trustees, Venessa Luck and Jessica Dow.

Wendy highlighted the upcoming Snapshot discussion entitled 'What is Public Education?', which will be led by Steph Yu, Executive Director of the Public Assets Institute, on 16 April.

Minutes of 18 March meeting: Dottie identified and corrected a typographical error in the financial report. Dottie moved to accept corrected minutes of the 18 March meeting; Sheila seconded; minutes passed unanimously.

Financial report: \$1797.40 in checking. CD value is \$2925.23.

Dottie said that she does not anticipate the library to run over-budget in the next 3 months.

Sheila moved to accept the financial report; Jeanne seconded; report passed unanimously.

Library Director and Staff report: Roof project is moving forward.

Sheila favorably commented on the Library's efforts to increase services for those suffering from dementia.

Christine highlighted the value of VTlibraries, the listserv of the VLA, as a vital source of information for what is happening in the Vermont library ecosystem.

Committee reports: Drawing upon ample and wide-ranging community feedback, the Strategic Planning Committee works to complete the Strategic Plan.

Work groups: The Brownell Library Centennial Work Group has begun to meet to plan a year-long celebration of the Library's centennial. The infectious enthusiasm of work group members Erin E. and Hannah Tracy was noted.

Sustainable Library Work Group member Alex continues to think about how to create an intentional trustee recruiting mechanism, one that reflects the Sustainable Libraries Initiative's ideals of sustainability and resilience. River's insight that a board of trustees contributes to the sustainability of a library only if it promotes one that is relevant to everyone in the community it serves was recognized.

Foundation report: Dottie and Karen expressed their concern for the Foundation's long-term viability. Christine expressed the Board's commitment to help the Foundation.

Old business: City budget passed. Dottie emphasized that in the new budgetary environment, it will be imperative that the Library be prepared to give strong arguments for each line of its budget. Jeanne noted that the Strategic Plan, which is informed by a strong public response, will be an invaluable resource for formulating these arguments.

New business: Wendy reported that cuts to the IMLS will likely impact ILL and other services.

Sheila moved to hold the Memorial Day Book Sale on the day of the Memorial Day Parade; Jeanne seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Sheila moved to go into executive session for personnel discussion; Jeanne seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Christine moved to adjourn; Sheila seconded; motion passed unanimously.
Minutes submitted by Alex Carmical