



LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Minutes of Meeting
Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Present: Gale Batsimm, Sally Blanchard-O'Brien, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Patrick Halladay, Vivian Halladay, Melissa Hutson, Cate MacLachlan, Grace Maley, Mona Tolba, Shana Trombley

Approval of Minutes: From January 22, Chol moved, Cate seconded. Approved.

Approve Agenda: Sally moved, Chol seconded. Approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Amy noted that meetings will now be recorded and posted on city website.

Friends Report: Held a very successful March book sale raising about \$4000. Next book sale will be April 13-14, first weekend after eclipse. The Friends have been accepted as community outreach partners at City Market which will provide regular volunteers beyond book sale needs. This also allows for one Rally for Change event per year which will raise the equivalent of a book sale. The Friends are working on finalizing an MoU with the City, will be talking with new city council and administration. Also working on getting a financial review.

Director's Report: Staff working hard. Programming continues to drive people to library and NNE Branch programming continues to expand. Governor ended hotel program and noted that there would be no day shelter, that impacts library. There were 11 hotels in Chittenden County that were housing people. Weekend was busy with Stuffie Sleepover, Irish Heritage Festival, Small Acts of Kindness, Friends' Book Sale. We have CSLs (community support liaisons) here six hours weekly and looking to expand that, Mayor was supportive of idea; CSLs are not trained in behavior management. Amy asked about social worker we asked for in city budget, Mary has not heard. We are regularly putting a staff member or security guard outside public bathrooms. Many of the incidents are occurring in or around bathroom. Cate said there will be a lot of change with new director at Howard Center and new administration in city. The more advance notice we have knowing things are happening the better we can prepare. Emily noted trusted people are saying there is a gap between police force and those providing services. We have evidence that this gap is happening. Jonathan suggested commission resend letter to new council. Emily suggested commissioners should activate as individuals, having seen this gap. Behavior management takes hours of library staff time and adds to stress level. Cate noted that people are staying away from library and that is a real effect. Vivian asked about how we keep trespassed people from reentering. It is visual recognition. Trespassed individuals may seek restorative justice. Patrick noted that so much is related to bathrooms. Mary noted that Overdose Prevention Sites help build relationships with people and provide resources. Vivian noted that stores are pointing people to library bathrooms. Mona said that housing is the critical issue. Amy said it would be good to invite Emma to come and hear these statistics and get a window in, as well as new councilors. Amy will reissue letter to Emma and councilors and come up with a time to talk. Regarding teen programming, Gale will set up meeting between Amanda, Grace and Vivian. Chol was glad staff retreat went well and thanks to Friends. More on strategic plan at next meeting, Mary needs to review info.

Welcome Shana: Shana Trombley joined Friends as Capital Campaign Manager. She will share updates as commissioners will be ambassadors to campaign. Phenomenal programming happening but building doesn't reflect programming and needs of community. Plan is direct response to what community is asking for: meeting rooms for one person and for group events, vibrant youth space, a café, and more. The library should be jewel of the city and the building is not at this moment. Friends are in Planning Phase of campaign, the Capital Campaign committee is meeting every two weeks. Meeting with stakeholders. This project will be part of revitalization of Gateway block. Cost of the Library Remodel is projected to be \$35M. Hoping to inspire community to make stretch gifts to support their community. We will be asking ourselves as board members and Friends to make meaningful gifts to campaign, not only in terms of time and talent, but financial gifts as well. That will be Quiet Phase of campaign, during which most of funds are raised, then Public Phase with marketing, creating opportunities for everyone to get involved. Then final phase is celebration. We want community to feel more invested. Vivian suggested having teen involvement. Emily suggested we spread word that so much work has been done and input has been given.

New Business: Some commissioner terms are coming to an end. We will have one Trustee opening, a mayoral designee opening. Public commissioners as well as trustees that are self-appointed. One student opening. Also time for reappointment letter for Mary. Amy will reach out to Melissa for staff input and will bring the letter forward in May.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion to adjourn Cate moved, Patrick seconded. Approved.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at 7:45 am