



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Wednesday, September 18, 7:45 am
Fletcher Free Library
Minutes

Present: Sally Blanchard-O'Brien, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Emily Copeland, Mary Danko, Chol Dhoor, Sam Doherty, Samantha Donalds, Patrick Halladay, Grace Maley, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Nick Tatakis, Rebecca Thompson, Mona Tolba.

Approval of minutes: from July 17. Cate moved, Chol seconded, approved.

Public Forum: No public in attendance.

Friends of FFL Report: The Friends will hold Annual Meeting on September 23 at 4:30 pm at FFL. Friends' Big Fall Book Sale will run September 18-22.

This is a very active period for the Capital Campaign. A Federal Grant Opportunity: EPA Community Change Grant \$2 billion nationwide, the Library will apply for \$20 million to support building a Climate Resiliency Hub—a community resource center with generators, resources, and services for community, most vulnerable during disasters/crises. The Library has served as warming shelter, cooling shelter, wildfire smoke shelter. This would feature building restoration and development and allows for capital projects. The application is a very complicated application process, tight timelines, required permission from the city. The Capital campaign has hired assistance with application. The goal to submit application by October 30th, rolling deadline until November 21. Samantha works for Clean Energy States Alliance, and will connect about building community partnerships. Mona is on the Committee for Climate Action and can work to get a letter of support from Climate Council and can work as part of Trusted Community Voices to help with communications efforts. A question was asked about need to revisit schematic design plans for energy efficiency. We will review plans with organizations and consultants to assess.

Upcoming Capital Campaign Events:

- Opening Reception with Senator Leahy on October 9 5:30-7pm, RSVP online. Reception and remarks for Photography exhibit in Pickering Room through October.
- Evening with Robert Putnam on October 4, 6-8:30pm, RSVP Online. Documentary Screening of "Join or Die".
- Former US Attorney & Legal Scholar Barbara Quaid on October 29, 5-7pm, Discussing disinformation

Meeting tonight (September 18) at FFL to discuss Memorial Auditorium & block development. The Capital Campaign is invested in development of entire bloc. Preliminary plans with developers for housing/hotel/retail project. Amy will attend to speak on Library perspective.

Director's Report: Library programming is going strong, particularly Youth & Book Discussions. Teen Librarian Amanda is leaving, last day 9/20, FFL has hired internal candidate Miriasha Borsykowsky. Sam & Grace (Student Liaisons) can serve as a resource for Miriasha. Hiring will begin for part-time Circulation Assistant. Peter Berghoef has been promoted to Technical services manager, hiring continues for a Reference Librarian/Cataloger.

Library is mostly quiet during open hours, ebbs and flows with behavior challenges outside. Inside full-time security is able to manage very well. Changes: WiFi turned off at night and outside outlets removed; it was a hard decision, but there were too many associated behavior challenges with folx hanging out by the outlets. We are noticing drug activity around the Library and are continuing to work with Street Outreach & CSLs. We are working with Howard Center on Social worker hiring. City laws state that any contract over \$50,000 has to go out to RFP, so Mary is working to build a memo to the Mayor's office asking for sole source funding because Howard is the only evident partner. The contract will then have to be approved by the board of finance and City Council. There was a question about if the police have been more involved around Library in response to drug activity--Mary has asked for more patrols, they come and go. Mayor's Community Safety Meeting is September 19, the next step in Community Safety Process. City Council members and State Senator Phil Baruth will be there. Agenda and possible place to submit questions in advance on Civic Clerk. There is always a lull when the school year starts, nice weather keeping folx outside. Mary has received emails from folx expressing displeasure about what they see around library, she engages with them. Mary to attend NPA's for Library Card Sign up Month and to promote library--Commissioners welcome to attend their local NPAs in support. Many people may not know we have full-time security and what they see outside doesn't reflect what the library is like inside.

Subcommittee update: Strategic Plan Draft--Initial feedback suggests having fewer goals and doing them well. Cate noticed that climate work is missing from many areas of draft, will rework. Emily noticed that the significant numbers of unhoused folx in Burlington is missing from Community Overview, will rework. Should focus on the library's response, find some specific data on Burlington numbers. There was a question about whether we are duplicating plans/language the city has already put forth; the City has a mission, not strategic plan, all 18 departments have been asked to revamp their strategic plans, and align with the Mayor's goals. We will keep working to add or pare down the Strategic Plan draft. Staff will be invited to give input at staff meeting on September 19. Eventually will be translating to a visual document

New/Other Business: Next meeting is Wednesday, November 20th, 7:45am. Will be focused on annual policy review.