

Approved April 19, 2021

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30 PM, February 15, 2022

On Zoom

Trustees present: Shirley Montagne, Rob Rinaldi, Dina Dubois, Nick Kramer, Tania Aebi, Kathryn Price, Carl Demrow. Staff: Jen Spanier, Director; Kimberly Hotelling, Assistant Director. Visitors: Ann Peck.

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:32 PM.

Anne Peck started with her idea for the art, home, and garden tour fundraiser. The garden part would be like that in the past but with vegetable gardens also included. Ann said that she knows of several different houses in the area that would be interesting to people. She envisions a two day event with a volunteer responsible for each category: art, home, and garden. She imagines a paid person to do marketing and advertising for the event- their pay could come from a fee charged to artists who would like to use the tour as a sales event. Kimberly noted that this would not be just a straight up garden tour like in the past and it could attract a much broader segment of the population. Ann talked a bit about the house part: historic homes, unusual homes, homes repurposed from a building built for another use. Rob asked if Ann was willing to be one of the three or four people making it happen and she said yes. Nick said he thought it was a good idea. Kimberly said she really appreciated Ann's hard work and creativity and thanked her for bringing this idea forward. Ann said this is just an idea at this point but that she is ready to come back to the next meeting with some of the people she is thinking of for leaders. Tania said great idea and thank you, Ann! Rob noted that we all seem to be in agreement that this is a good idea and we should move forward.

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the last meeting and Nick seconded. The minutes of the December 8th meeting were approved.

Shirley then went into the treasurer's report. She noted that the electric bill was big for the past month because it has been cold. We did have the internet speed dropped but Rob will get in touch with Brian Marteeny to ask him to bump it back up to 100. The drop was due to an issue with our equipment which is not able to handle the full speed, though the hotspot outside the library is available at the top speed. Rob is getting an estimate on the cost to upgrade the equipment in the building. Carl moved to approve the treasurer's report and Nick seconded. The report was approved.

Shirley next presented the 2022 budget line by line. She said she has been conservative in our revenues. Carl moved to approve the budget and Rob seconded. The budget was approved.

Next was the Director's report. Circulation and the number of visitors continues to trend upward. Kids books are regularly coming in again and Jen has been keeping an eye on places the collection needs filling or evening out. She is looking into options to purchasing books from Amazon and has found some good alternatives and will begin to move some of our purchasing to them. One of them will even accept culled books with free shipping!

The library has been accepting puzzles for loan and Jen's husband donated 2 pipe wrenches for the tool lending library. Insurance is an issue and power tools are out because of that.

This spring's book discussion series will be mystery themed. Kimberly ran a very successful Harry Potter after school program and is doing jewelry making with the kids after school now. The after school programs have really been needed and well received, but Jen says we should find a way to fund Kimberly's time for the after school programs because they are quite time consuming.

The CCC approached Jen about having a listing of local businesses on the library's website.

The big news is the possibility of a Vermont after school program grant that covers two school years plus summer camp in the intervening summer. Miranda will be working on the grant but will submit it to Jen and Shirley well ahead of the deadline so they can review it ahead of time. Jen is also considering applying to the Town of Corinth for ARPA funds.

Scott Welch is coming in on a regular basis and getting to the tasks he had said he'd take care of with the laptops and will consult on network needs.

Jen will be attending a class on hybrid workshops that will include how to best use the owl.

Rob moved to approve the directors report and Kathryn seconded. Directors report approved.

The governance committee presented the collections development policy. Tania gave some context for how the policy was developed and tightened up. Nick said he thought it looked like a well thought out policy. Dina spoke about her concerns about elements that she felt were missing in the reconsideration procedure, she felt it was important that written policy include the distribution of mission statement, Materials Selection Policy, a request for Reconsideration Form and the Library Bill of Rights to any person who requests reconsideration. Tania proposed to add the materials that Dina suggested to the policy.

Nick moved to approve the policy with the changes suggested by Dina and outlined by Tania. Rob seconded and the policy was approved.

Dina moved to adjourn and Rob seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl Demrow, secretary