

Approved 2/28/23

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

6:30pm, December 15, 2022

In the library basement

Trustees present at library: Shirley Montagne, Tania Aebi, Rob Rinaldi, and Carl Demrow; also present at the library: Jen Spanier, Director and Barry Shaw, guest. Trustees on Zoom: Dina Dubois; also present on Zoom: Kimberly Hotelling, Assistant Library Director

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:30pm

Rob moved to approve the minutes of the October meeting, Shirley seconded.

Treasurer's Report: The town of Corinth did provide the \$900 in interest on the funds held by the town in trust of the library. Annual requests have been made to the town and the annual appeal has been sent out. Some additional funds have been provided to cover the overage for the camp. The line of credit will need to be renewed. Dina asked why the line of credit needed to be renewed and Shirley explained the grants for the camp and after school program are on a reimbursement schedule so we need to front the expense and then bill for it. Carl made a motion that the \$75,000 line of credit with Wells River Savings Bank be renewed with Shirley Montagne and Carl Demrow as signatories. Rob seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Shirley also said that the personnel committee has recommended to the finance committee that salaries be increased by 3%. Dina asked a bit about how these increases have been figured in the past and Shirley offered some history on how raises have been calculated. Carl made a motion that the board adopt the report of the personnel and finance committees and approve a 3% salary increase effective January 1, 2023. Rob seconded.

We then moved on to the budget. We have structural defects in the budget that need to be addressed, but the finance committee wanted to present the staff increases ahead of the first of the year. The finance committee has serious reservations about the \$7000 deficit in the camp program and BML's ability to recover those funds which we understand are unsecured by the grant. But additionally concern was noted regarding the size of the camp expenses for last summer relative to the entire annual library budget. Carl wondered about the capacity of the board to provide oversight and governance in addition to what it is already doing. We are in the business of running a library, not a camp. Finally, it was noted the the grant for the camp and after school programs provide no additional support for library overhead or the director or assistant. Further discussion was postponed until after the executive session later in the meeting.

Rob made a motion to accept the treasurer's report and Tania seconded. The Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted.

The copier has been replaced because it was too old to be serviced! Rob asked how it was working and Tania held up several pages she just copied for the meeting. Tania said someone came in yesterday and printed off a thumb drive. Others have come in and printed using their phones.

The Palace app now has the overdrive collection, the Vermont State Library and the Palace marketplace and the Palace collection of open materials, Palace marketplace, and some open access materials. You cannot use it on your computer- you have to use it on a mobile device.

Jen is planning to have a workshop on how to make the most out of Aspen.

The junior library guild subscription has been renewed, but Jen dropped three categories to make it more affordable. One of the categories dropped was YA. Jen said we don't have a lot of YA aged users of the library. Jen is considering having a youth advisory group to help figure out how to best serve younger adults so they will keep coming when they get to high school. Jen said we won't stop buying YA books, but she'll be a bit more strategic about choosing titles.

Book discussion series this fall was on gastronomy. Jen said she'd like to get the numbers back up on that program and this spring will be an Edith Wharton series. The Vermont Reads book for this winter will be *The Most Dangerous Journey* about migrant workers. Kimberly talked a bit about potential programming around the book.

There is a crafting club on Mondays, and the chess club is starting up again. There are also two groups of kids who come and play board games and dungeons and dragons on different days of the week.

Jen spoke about a number of grants she was considering applying for, and got a bit of input from the board. Most are fairly narrowly focused.

Dina asked about the tool lending library. Jen and Shirley both shared a bit on the history of that but the real issue is space to store the tools.

The 2023 Garden Art House tour planning is underway, and there is already a lot of excitement! Sue Pratt is ready to help out and a lot of the planning has been done since the first year is now under our belt. Dina is planning on using the caravan and wagon for the house, garden, art tour this summer, so they will not be available for a bookmobile in July and August

Tania brought up the governance committee work. There are three policies up for approval this evening: Confidentiality of Library Records, Board Meetings and Open Meeting Law, Procedures for change in trustee. We had some discussion about the open meeting law piece, then Rob

moved that we accept all three changes for governance. Tania seconded and the three policies were adopted unanimously.

Carl made a motion to go into executive session and Rob seconded. The board when into executive session at 7:46 PM.

The board came out of executive session at 8:28 PM.

Rob made the motion that the board withdraw from any future programming related to the 2022-2023 Vermont Afterschool and Summer Expanding Access Grant. Shirley seconded. In discussion it was mentioned since the after school program still hadn't started, it is a good time to pull out. The board felt that the grant did not support the goals of the library and has proven to be a financial burden. The board voted unanimously to withdraw from the grant.

The board changed the date for the next meeting due to Jen's vacation schedule- the next meeting will be on Tuesday February 28.

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary