Approved April 16, 2024

BLAKE MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
6:30pm, February 27, 2024
At the library and on zoom

Trustees present: At the library: Shirley Montagne, Dina Dubois, Rob Rinaldi, Zoe Tilley Poster, Tania Aebi, Nick Kramer, and Carl Demrow.

Shirley brought the meeting to order at 6:42 pm

Rob made a motion to approve the minutes of December 4, 2023, and Dina seconded. Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurers' Report.

Shirley noted that the savings bonds had been cashed in and the finance committee recommends the redemption proceeds from the bonds go into our Northeast Investment fund with a certain percentage kept in a more liquid state. Shirley discussed the draft budget for 2024. The budget is tight and we are not expecting some of the revenues we had this past year. Shirley was able to get some savings in insurance by switching from Swenson to Odell. Shirley balanced the budget by removing $2K from collections.

Dina asked if the garden tour is worth it. Rob said it is absolutely worth it, and others agreed. Rob made a motion to approve the budget and Tania seconded. The budget was adopted unanimously.

Rob reported on the potential of a grant for a pavilion/ with solar panels. Rob and Jen have met with Katharine Lea and they will be working with Nick Zandstra to get a price. Rob described the grant process and the general building concept. Tania made a motion that we support Jen moving forward with a grant request once she has the pricing from Katharine and Nick. Motion passed unanimously.

Jen got a $12,000 grant for a generator for the library and is looking into the best way to fulfill the grant.

Zoe gave the fundraising committee report. It is Zoe, Lisa Locke, Anne McKinsey, Liane Allen, and Katharine Lea. They are planning on the usual book and plant sale with a raffle of gift cards from local businesses. There will be activities for the kids and of course pizza from Rob. Some other ideas were Beetlejuice themed party in the fall and an online auction. The auction would be online and could include classes, meals, or items along with donations from businesses.

The governance committee has one policy to submit to the board on Procedures of Library Operation during an extended absence of the Director. The board reviewed the policy. Rob made a motion to approve the policy and Carl seconded. The policy passed unanimously.

Miranda talked about her proposal for summer and afterschool program from the cannabis revenue grants. Waits River Valley School can house the grant but cannot be the applicant. The Barra School is applying for its own grant for LGBTQ youth and the grant funders only will allow one grant per organization. The process would involve the library submitting a grant and then contracting the grant to the Barra School. Barra School would handle the money, payroll, insurance, etc. No line of credit would be needed and there would be no waiting for reimbursement of funds. The community will get a summer camp. Youth oriented programming that Jen and Kimberly are running could be funded to some degree through the grant. For example summer reading program activities could be reimbursed including staff time.

Miranda said she would apply for $200,000 for the programs she would run through the library's name.

Rob said he would have a hard time getting behind the program. He said he was worried WRVS could back out and then the library would be on the hook for providing a location, stressing the library building, staff and volunteers.

Shirley moved that we go into executive session and Carl seconded. The board went into executive session at 8:01.

The board came out of executive session at 8:18.

Shirley moved that we do not authorize the application to AOE for afterschool and camp programs because they are out of our scope. Rob seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be on April 16th at 6:30 PM.

Rob made a motion to adjourn and Tania seconded, meeting adjourned at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Carl Demrow, secretary