

**Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees Conference Room,  
Greenfield Public Library  
Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:00PM**

Hybrid Access to this meeting:

<https://greenfield-ma-gov.zoom.us/j/96478114936?pwd=Qm5jTmRiRFIBZ1lya0dlWFc3NGp4QT09>

Call to order: Chair Doris Cowdry called the meeting to order at 5:00PM.

**Chair's statement:** *This meeting is not being recorded by the Library Board of Trustees. If any person present is recording this meeting, you must notify the chairperson at this time.*

**Roll call:** Doris Cowdry (the electronic version), Sarah Ahearn Bellemare, Bill Benson, Ann Dillon, Jonathon Gorczyca Cohen, Sam Wood, Jim Zaccara.

**Public comment:** There was no public comment.

**Approval of minutes from March 12, 2024, meeting:** motion to approve the minutes was made by Sarah. And seconded by Jonathon. Motion passed unanimously.

**Friends report:** Paul Jablon, the Friends representative to the Trustees, gave the following report:

- Poet's Seat Poetry Contest Readings: The finalists, both adult and youth, will do their readings on 4/23. Paul urged all to attend for an amazing time.
- Pints for Programs: The next program will be held at North Star Brewery in Northfield on 5/16.
- Read - a - thon: The Friends are raising funds, looking at the best software to use, and will email out to friends and families about the event. It will be coordinated with the Summer Reading Program. The announcement will be made in June.

**New Business:**

- *Farmers Market FY25:* Librarian Pamela McBride joined the meeting to discuss the future of the Farmers Market at the library. The recent Fall and Winter markets ended a few weeks ago and was judged a rousing success by both library personnel and the farmers. The proposal for this coming fall and winter is for 2 in November and December and 1 in January, February, and March, for a total of 7. A motion to approve the proposal was made by Bill and seconded by Ann. It passed unanimously.
- *Summer Eats update:* A food truck sponsored by the Greenfield school system will be parked outside the library from 6/24 to 8/16 Monday evenings to offer dinner and breakfast packaged meals for people who desire them. Library staff are looking for related activities such as cooking and food prep for teens.
- *First year anniversary party update:* Planning for a big time one year anniversary of the new Library Opening is scheduled for 7/13! Looking to involve Trustees, Friends, Foundation, and staff. Stone Soup has agreed to participate, and food trucks are being looked at. May also have bands participating. Thinking of it as a block party. Next meeting is 4/26.
- *Plaque event:* The Foundation has hung plaques throughout the library honoring a number of donors.

They are hosting a reception for these individuals this Thursday evening at the library.

- [FY25 budget update](#): Anna and Jonathon presented the impact of the mayor's budget submission for 25 for the library. Our bottom line was \$865,624 versus \$920,181 the library submitted. However, the mayor's version was a slight increase over this year's budget and included monies for a new part time position. Anna would like to change the status of the position to increase flexibility. Will speak with the city's fiscal director.
- [Presentation of behavior policy update](#): Trustees reviewed the updates and approved unanimously for vote at next meeting.
- [Presentation of meeting room policy update](#): Trustees reviewed the updates and approved unanimously for vote at next meeting.
- [Presentation of minimum staffing policy update](#): Trustees reviewed the updates and approved unanimously for vote at next meeting.
- [Public safety in the library](#): There have been several incidents recently where police were called. One involved a male with mental health challenges who acted out to the point of police involvement. Another involved unruly teens or tweens who were also acting out in the Teen Room and the police were again called.  
A lengthy discussion ensued around this problem. Staff are not trained to deal with disruptive behavior of this magnitude and the police do not have an ongoing presence in the library despite having a social worker from CSO embedded with them. The decision was made to form a advisory group at Sam's suggestion on this topic to search for possible approaches to the problem. Bill, Sam, and Sarah volunteered.

#### **Old business and committee reports:**

- Construction project update: still working on some issues.
- Vote to accept amendments to hotspot lending program policy: Ann moved to approve with a second from Bill. Motion approved unanimously.
- RATS (ServiceNet show/Portraits of Dementia show): The ServiceNet show displaying artwork of individuals with mental health challenges was hung on Friday. Sarah volunteered her time to work with ServcieNet personnel. Reception is scheduled for 5/1. Trustees and Friends are invited. The show will be up till the end of May. Discussed next planned exhibit which will be photograph of individuals with dementia. Looking at July and August. The RATs will further discuss and plan.

#### **Director's report**

- [Narrative Report](#)

- **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn was made by Jim and seconded by Sarah. The motion was approved unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION MAY BE CALLED

