

## Board of Trustees, 06/08/2021

**Committee:** Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees

**Place:** Virtually

**Date:** June 8, 2021

**Posted Meeting Time:** 5:00pm

Call to Order: Doris Cowdrey called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

**Chairperson's statement:** This meeting is not being recorded by the Library Board of Trustees. If any other persons present are recording this meeting, they must notify the chairperson at this time.

**Roll Call:** Bill Benson, Ed Berlin, Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, Doris Cowdrey, Samantha Wood

**Other:** Ellen Boyer (Director), Lisa Prolman (Ass't Director), Paul Jablon

**Public:**

- Changes/Additions to the Agenda
  - Open trustee position soon due to a coming resignation
  - Discussion of in-person meetings under new business
- Public Comment
- Approval of minutes from April meeting (there was no meeting in May)

**MOTION:** On a motion by Bill seconded by Doris, it was

**VOTED:** To accept the April meeting minutes with spelling corrections; one abstention

- Friends Report
  - Poet's Seat contest has occurred; no public reading or awarding of prizes; Recorder will publish the semi-finalists and then the winning poems with pictures of the poets; the hope is that they will continue to publish the winners once the event is public again
    - committee will get in touch with Sam Wood about facilitating Zoom readings
  - As Franklin County Fair will be happening, the restaurant raffle will be back on for this year
    - people will be asking restaurants to donate \$50 gift certificates if financially feasible
  - Friends will give a percentage (75%) of the requested programming budget due to reduced fundraising for this year
- New Business
  - Eliminating overdue fines
    - It has recently become more common for libraries to eliminate overdue fines (not replacement costs)
      - ALA encourages this

- CWMARS strongly recommends it happening
- Articles show this to be a social justice issue
  - the people who need the library the most are the ones who are most likely to accrue fines
  - Affects many children who are in transitional living situations who accrue the maximum fines and then can't borrow materials
- Question about the difference between overdue fines and lost materials
  - difference is between something that is returned versus something that isn't
  - materials are considered lost when overdue for over a month
- Fines also cause negative interactions between the patron and staff members
- The one late fee we wish to keep is the museum pass fine to encourage people to bring the passes back on time

**MOTION:** On a motion by Jonathan seconded by Sam, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To eliminate library fines going forward and retrospectively

**MOTION:** On a motion by Sam seconded by Jonathan, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To maintain the overdue fines on museum passes

- Upcoming open board position
  - Discussion on how to fill position
    - Create preliminary screening committee to bring names forward for board to consider for opening
      - Suggest Bill and Sam to work on committee with a library staff member to serve as well
      - meetings need to be listed as public but can invoke executive session so discussion can be private
- Discussion of in-person meetings
  - Cannot use senior center until after COVID clinics are done, which is soon
  - Mayor has offered meeting room on second floor of city hall as another option
  - question if meeting in person means we also have to have it on WebEx
  - IT department has said hybrid meetings are not feasible at this time
  - must be decided by City
  - July's meeting will be in-person unless meeting needs to be on WebEx
- Old Business and Committee Reports
  - Update on current limited library services and next steps
    - timeline has been moved up again
    - 6/5 (Saturday) we opened for browsing on Saturdays 10-2pm
    - 6/12 will be the last day of GPL-to-Go
    - Week of 6/14, we will only be open for browsing, but people can pick up GPL-to-Go materials during that week

- Week of 6/21, we go to 6 days a week at 4 hours a day
    - Week of July 21, we reopen to 45 hours a week; we are short a staff member to be open our total pre-COVID hours, but by September we will be back at 51 hours a week.
  - Building Committee
    - The news we got last week could not have been better
      - bids came in under budget with all add alternates
      - DA Sullivan has gotten approval from the board
        - Local builders with a good reputation
        - will hire local subcontractors as well
      - Mayor signed a notice of award which was hand-delivered
        - contract will be awarded
        - anticipated groundbreaking is August 15
      - A sign is in process with a picture of the new building
        - want a wow factor and something that will help the Foundation with the fundraising push
      - We will have money for landscaping and art
  - Foundation
    - having a donor event at Terrazza's at the end of June to showcase the design and allow the donors to meet the members of the Foundation
    - Good opportunity to bring people together as a community
    - It is a testament to planning that the city is getting this project in such a time of need
  - Fire Station
    - no report
- Director's Report
  - Introduction party for Youth Services staff on 6/5
    - mostly an open house with crafts with over 100 attendees
    - great reviews from kids who attended
    - we are participating in a state-wide program where the library has a mascot that goes to locations unique to Greenfield and has pictures taken
      - Vote was to name the mascot Blueberry
      - Blueberry's seven babies are being raffled off over the SRP, the first went home with someone at the party
      - if you have suggestions of where to bring Blueberry for her photos, please let us know
    - New focus of children's room will be children's literacy rather than theatrical productions
  - Community Read will be happening with GCC, GHS, and the library with details to follow
  - The Betes have asked that part of their donation to the library go to the Teen Space

- Francesca's teen group did a presentation for the architects which resulted in the window seat being added into the room
- At their last meeting, she used a computer program to allow the teens to design their own version of the Teen room, which was presented to the Betes, who were very impressed

**MOTION:** On a motion by Jonathan seconded by Bill, it was unanimously

**VOTED:** To adjourn the meeting

*Meeting ended at 5:57pm.*