

Board of Trustees, 08/15/2023

Committee: Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees

Place: Greenfield Public Library

Date: August 15, 2023

Posted Meeting Time: 5:00 pm

Call to Order: Ed Berlin called the meeting to order at 5:08pm

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: Sarah Ahearn Bellmare, Bill Benson, Ed Berlin, Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, Ann Dillon, Sam Wood.

Other: Anna Bognolo (Director), Lisa Prolman (Ass't Director), Paul Jablon (Friends)

Public: Robert Williford

Public Comment – Mr. Williford is concerned about closure of the back patio door off of the Children's room. Ed describes the Building Committee process and planning about back patio door – it was never meant to be an entryway. Anna agrees and explains that the planned gate has yet to be installed. Once it is, there will be no access to the balcony area from the street level. Biggest concern is that we don't want people entering/exiting during the children's programs. Safety of children is the issue and concern.

Robert – There's a problem as there are no curb cuts. Discusses that the ADA committee will be meeting to address not being able to use the back patio door. Robert continues to speak but his time is up. Ed stops the discussion and explains back door decisions were made during the building planning and this is not the time for lengthy discussion. He thanked Robert for his concerns expressed to the architect and others involved in the planning of the new library.

Approval of minutes from June meeting

MOTION: On a motion by Sarah and seconded by Bill, it was unanimously
VOTED: To approve the June meeting minutes

Friends Report from Paul –

Friends didn't have a meeting in July. Raffle committee has been meeting. Virtually every restaurant has donated the 75 gift certificate. We ask that Trustees might help sell tickets at the fair.

New Business –

Ed – Moving onto policy discussion. Discussion of use of Google Docs. Ed says possible discussion of open meeting law. Jonathan says we could do subcommittees. Sam agrees we should have subcommittees.

Policy subcommittees are as follows –

Ed/Anna/Sarah/Sam– Children and Teen room policies

Johnathan/Ann/Sam/ meeting room policy / kitchenette / study

Paul points out that Trustees are under the same rules as the school committee. Paul suggests we should call this an Advisory group

Lisa also mentions we have some changes to the Collection development policy due to the new Zine collection. We need to update with the original group that started this work. Just for future reference. Sam/Lisa/Jonathan will work on this.

Advisory groups will meet very soon – this week ideally and all will get done before the next meeting. Groups will submit the advisory group edits to Anna by the 25th of August. Will need final policies for the September 12 meeting.

Old Business and Committee Reports –

Building Committee – Ed Building committee report – things are being looked into issues brought up by Mr. Williford

Foundation – Nothing to report as Doris is not available/away

Director's Report –

Anna with her director's report –

Been an amazing month. A lot of feedback/discussion with public and staff. Grand opening saw new and familiar faces and many visitors. 300 cards activated 200

new patrons in the first 2 weeks. Astrid Scheckls event was very popular, almost out of cards. Overall 500+ new/returning patrons since opening. Numbers are up in general for check out – back to pre-Covid #s. (data chart attached) Streaming services and E-products are up. More concerning issues – staffing issues – volume is so high, we are needing to reconfigure how all desk coverage etc.

Lisa – generally 30% up with a new building.... Discussion of a machine to do check-in... Anna – impact of not having the machine is it is delaying programs. Need people to reshelv books and sort books. Sean is leaving at the end of August. Per Diems are working a lot. Starting to feel the crunch of not enough staff and things are not getting done. Jeremiah made some visuals (attached)

Library programs have had a big turn out. Teen programming is going fantastic. 30 ppl at the intergenerational book group. Study rooms were reserved 115 times in first 16 days.

All feedback whether positive or negative feedback from the community. Generally there's a steady stream, it's not as intense.

Other issues – People counters from old buildings died. We need them for new building. A lot of people want to hang on a community bulletin board for example. There are a lot of loose ends. Video surveillance system hasn't come to be installed. Screen for meeting room. Asking for patience from the community. There are no clocks yet in the library. Lisa says they did find some that link to the atomic clock and she will order when decided upon.

Ed – any other questions?

Sam – wants to highlight that 500 people got new cards and it's amazing. We are here for the community. Thanks Anna for what she has done so far. Anna says that she should thank the staff – it's the staff who are running this place and have done all the work.

Anna – Children's librarians have taken the brunt of the criticism ... It's really unfair. Discussion on Facebook etc is very negative and unfair. Not a dedicated area for tweens – we are hoping to reconfigure that area and work with different age groups.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:05pm