

Board of Trustees Meeting November 2023

Committee: Greenfield Public Library Board of Trustees

Place: Greenfield Public Library

Date: November 14, 2023

Posted Meeting Time: 5:00 PM

Call to Order: Doris Cowdrey called meeting to order at 5:04 PM

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

Roll Call: Members Present – Doris Cowdrey, Bill Benson, Sarah Ahearn Bellmare, Ann Dillon, Sam Wood, and Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca

Others Present: Director Anna Bognolo, Ass't Direct Lisa Prolman, Friends representative, Paul Jablon

Chair Doris Cowdrey opened the meeting to public comment

Jasper Lapienski – He had concern over use of the library conference rooms upon original denial of Channukah event. He urged the event related to Jewish holiday of Chanukkah. He believes there is a false equivalency relating the religion of Judaism with the current War in Israel. He indicated the city gave him a license to erect and light the menorah in front of the Library.

Ruth Witty - Judaism is an ancient religion and should not be equated with political issues

Jim Benson – Echoed support of above for the use of the Library for the Chanukkah celebration

Approval of October minutes – Bill Benson motion to approve, Sam Wood seconded. All members present approved.

Friends Report – Last part of contribution \$75,000 made to the Greenfield Public Library Foundation. The raffle committee is continuing to sell at the YMCA. Drawing is December 2nd. First event for pints and programs ran. Looking for dedicated space for book sale. Book sale is in large conference room. The Friends and the Library is collecting books, separating, and eventually selling the last week of January, early February. February 10th is the book sale. Roundabout books will take remaining book. Library assistance as needed.

New business – City license office issued License to Jasper to place the menorah in front of the library. He wants to party at the Library with music, food, and speakers. The event is open to public. Charter gives responsibility for us to make policy. Board urged fire department approval, liability insurance, and to move the menorah lighting to the City Common. The event is December 13th, 6-8 pm. Advisory board will make decision analyzing our written policies. Ann Dillion, Sam Wood, Lisa Prolman, Ann Bognolo, and Paul Jablon are the advisory board.

How could the trustees support self-care for librarians? Staff are tired due to size of library and being understaffed.

FY 2025 budget – present a budget that has all needs/wants, more staffing, etc. Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, Doris Cowdrey to assist Anna Bognolo in formulating and assist with MUNIS input.

Nominating and approval of Vice-Chairman and Chairman

Bill Benson led search committee for Vice-Chair. Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca was nominated by Bill Benson; seconded by Sam Wood; all approved

Doris Cowdrey was nominated by Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, motion made by Jonathan, seconded by Bill Benson; all present in favor with no objections.

Punch List – building updates. Anna is working with Deanna Schneider. Getting ready for budget committee. Do they need to borrow money for bonding purposes? They have a list of items; solar panels get plugged in and up and running. What does staff need? Translation services suggested. Meeting with Laura Phelps regarding signage. Projected cost before new year. Three bids required: Ahern, Hale, and a third contractor still needed for voting. Building committee is holding money to contractor. Library still doesn't have occupancy permit. HVAC, server room is too hot, hand drier issues with electrical surges, solar panels don't work. Board suggested Tim Farrell be urged to hold Building Committee meeting ASAP to address these issues.

Bulletin Board Policy has been voted upon. Jonathan approved, Sam Wood seconded, all present in favor

Digital sign out front not being used – software has yet to be implemented or used by staff. Include in punch list.

Director's Report:

Study Room and Meeting Room policy monitoring discussed. Opening of MUNIS for budget and staffing needs. Paid parking is currently not in place yet. Teens yelled slur at homeless man and triggered him, were harassing staff, yelling, vaping inside building. Library Director attempted to address situation calmly to no avail. Police were eventually called and found group of teens. They were questioned and no names were given. Cameras setup and unfortunately not working once again not allowing the Library to leverage technology in this situation.

Motion made to adjourn meeting by Jonathan Cohen-Gorczyca, seconded by Bill Benson, approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:02 PM