

MINUTES OF BLAISDELL MEMORIAL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING

January 11, 2023

Present: Liz Bolton, Allison Friend-Gray, Jim Kelly, Kate Knight-Dupuis, Jen Phillips, Karyn Quinn, Debbie Ricker.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

Policy Updating/Current Tasks:

- The lift is in place but is not ready for use pending finish construction and load testing by the State. It should be online by the next meeting.
- The old furnace no longer works. It dates from the original building in 1976 and is well past its expected service lifespan. The basement meeting room is without heat but can still be used by leaving the door open to the Children's area and supplemental electrical heat. The Town is responsible for fixing or replacing it and has been notified of the situation.

Secretary's Report:

- The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed. Jen proposed fixing several typos Jim moved and Allison seconded to accept the amended minutes. All voted in favor.
- The minutes of the emergency meeting on December 20 were reviewed. Jim moved and Kate seconded to accept the minutes. All voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report:

- The Treasurer's report was reviewed. All spending categories were within budget.
- Liz noted that there was a discrepancy between her estimates of the percentage increase represented in staff salaries in the 2023 budget and the numbers provided by the town in the budget. We will try to determine the source of the difference in percentages.
- Jim moved to accept the report and Kate seconded. All voted in favor.

Library Director's Report:

- Gate count is up 24% from December 2021. Print circulation is up 22% from last month. We added 9 new patron accounts last month and the patron museum pass requests bounced back due to school vacations. Overdrive circulation hit a record high for the month with a 24% increase from December 2021. Since what we pay for Overdrive is determined by demand, we may be looking at cost increases in 2023.
- Children's programming continues to be a strength with STEAM club and LEGO club at or close to capacity. Miss Julie's Polar Express story time was an outstanding success with the meeting room at capacity and 20 people on the waiting list. Plans are for two sessions next year.

- Adult programming continues to be popular. The Book Groups are consistent with 6-8 in the afternoons and 8-10 in the evenings. The Cookbook Group has 11 members. Jordan will start a crafting group for adults.
- We have full coverage during operating hours at the moment and plan to be open Sundays through to April.
- Jim moved to accept the Director's report and Kate seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Old Business:

- Three Warrant Articles impacting the Library will come before the Deliberative Session on February 4th. Article #7 appropriates funds for maintenance of heating, plumbing and other systems in various town buildings. Article #8 appropriates funds for various road projects, including the Library parking lot. Article #16 appropriates funds to bring the Library's entrance into compliance with the ADA. The Trustees reviewed these articles. Jim moved and Allison seconded that the Board supports their passage. All voted in favor.
- A donation button will go online on the Library's website shortly, now that our Stripe account has been finalized.

New Business:

- At an emergency meeting on December 20th, the Trustees signed a contract to polyjack the hazardously uneven pavers on the front walk. This should be a permanent fix; the work is scheduled for the spring. However, the Town is requesting funds in a warrant article for engineering projects which will include funds for fixing the drainage in the Library parking lot (see above). This may impact the sidewalk project and we will coordinate with the engineers should the warrant article be adopted.
- The filing period for Town elections, including those for the two upcoming vacancies for the Library Board of Trustees begins on January 25 and ends on February 3. Several candidates have expressed an interest.
- Jim moved to accept any and all new donations and Kate seconded. All voted in favor.

The next meeting will be 6:30 on February 16, 2023.

Jim moved to adjourn, and the meeting ended at 7:37 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kelly