

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
Tuesday November 8, 2022 4:45 PM

Minutes

Present: Sirkka Kauffman, Starr Latronica, Karen Tyler, Matt Wojcik (electronic services specialist), Jennifer Rowe, Leo Schiff, Joyce Sullivan, Ann Varilly, John Woodward, Beth Johnson (VISTA). Absent: Kate O'Connor, Howard Burrows.

Call to Order / **4:47 PM** Leo

Agenda/Changes or additions: Continuing Business: discussion of possible library social worker.

Public Comments: none.

Minutes of October 11, 2022: Ann moved to approve; Joyce seconded. All who were in attendance voted to approve.

COMMITTEE UPDATES/ DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A. Friends of the Library- Joyce update

- Starr made some requests for funds that were approved.
- Book sale will be start day after Thanksgiving, and donations are still being accepted.
- The annual appeal will start soon. Karen and Sue from Friends are drafting.

B. Finance/Asset Development Committee—John Woodward, Chair

- We have received the first deliverable from Amy Schlegel to appraise the Loud collection of 317 items. This includes recommendations of what to do with each item: sell at auction, mostly those with an estimated value over \$500; transfer to other local institutions; or keep, store, and ideally display. The next steps are to see how much we agree with those recommendations, ask how much the auction process would cost and net us, and decide where we would spend or put any funds received. Amy recommended only 9 items to keep, but we need to decide whether to add to that list, in essence emptying the current storage room for other uses. Jenny and Leo noted that we may need to revise the Fine Arts policy, which now restricts using funds received from deaccessioning to maintaining the collection, and prohibits adding any to the general operating fund. We may wish to use such funds to purchase more contemporary art, better display infrastructure, general building improvements, and contracts for art maintenance. In response to John's query, no one was opposed to a thorough deaccessioning to free up space.

C. Technology Committee

- No report.

D. Buildings and Grounds—Karen Tyler, Chair

- No report.

E. Advocacy and liaison to library organizations—Howard Burrows

- No report. Ann referenced the email from Howard about potential support from Vail Resorts for next spring's VLA meeting.

F. Strategic Planning Committee

- Ann noted the group is meeting every other week, and working on a second draft coming soon. Leo reported that Ann has agreed to become the official Chair and thanked her for stepping up.

G. Department Reports: Director; Youth Services (in packet)

Director

Starr reported that circulation is about 76% of 2019 figures, but that service statistics are through the roof. Joyce and Leo asked if we could document these interactions somehow in terms of hours or number of people served. Starr will present the budget on the 29th to the Selectboard.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

- Request to film Trustee Meetings and “publish” them on BCTV:
Matt reported that the website plan we have now costs \$190/year and includes 15 gigs of storage, of which we are already using 14. Each zoom recording is about 1/3 gig. The next plan would cost \$790/year, but even with that it is not a good idea to post zooms. Meetings are open to the public, and if they want to film and post on BCTV they can do so. We could post zooms on YouTube for free, but that would have ads over which we have no control. He asked if VLA or VT state library has any recommendations on this. In response to Jenny's question about posting the latest meeting on our website and taking it down the next month, Matt said that it would help the space issue, but it is more complicated and uses his time. Leo suggested that we publicize the meetings in the newsletter as open to the public in person or via zoom. Matt will look into the web analytics on how much the Board minutes are accessed now, noting that some would prefer more complex web pages rather than the current pdf format.
- Discussion of possible library social worker:
Leo recapped the potential list of contacts discussed at last month's meeting: Police chief, HCRS staff, Groundworks, graduate programs, Brattleboro hospital and the Retreat. Starr has met with the police chief, director of HCRS, director of Groundworks and the new Town finance director. If we were to hire a paraprofessional, the cost would be \$77,000 a year for a full-time MSW. There was discussion that we don't need a full-time person or an MSW, that a BA might be enough. It would be helpful if we had data on how much staff time is being spent on various interactions now. It was also noted there may be a fear that we could come to be known as a hub for social services, which could increase the problem. Leo summarized that we would not solve this today or make a proposal, but noted that there is continued enthusiasm for exploring this, and

we may keep it in Continuing Business if we get more information, ideas, or knowledge of grant opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS

- Trustee terms

Leo noted that the terms of Jenny, John and Karen were ending; all three agreed to continue on the Board. If someone else decides not to continue, please let Leo know as soon as possible so that recruitment for new trustees can begin in December. He also noted that we will be looking for a new President.

6:27 pm. Leo adjourned.