Library tech committee minutes | Oct 7, 2026

Attendees: Bob Ferrante, Leo Schiff, Matthew Wojcik

Intro

- Call to Order 4:33pm
- Approve previous meeting minutes?
    - *(from August meeting – Sept was canceled) OK'd*
- Agenda OK

Continuing business

- Talking about Tech
    - Report on September session:
        - Bob Ferrante was the first non-staffer to do a session.
        - Attendance: over 20 people.
        - We ended up going over a bit so didn't have as much time to do as much assistance/peer assistance.
        - In general, peer assistance isn't really happening as much. How can we make it work?
            - Matt can use the opportunity to schedule assistance sessions with attendees.
            - Leo: What if we try tech peer support as the lead topic one month? This way we'd have time for it!
            - Will enough people show up to make this happen?
            - The subject of AI ethics came up during the meeting. We respectfully discussed it briefly. It can have a follow-up discussion.
        - Reiterate: Curation is now a library staff, not a BoT function ongoing… however, if staff are open for ideas and feedback, we can provide it (Leo: Trustees are a proxy for the public). POssible topics:
            - AI Ethics
            - More practical AI suggestions.
            - Ann Varilly suggested someone do a presentation on digital security. Matt will follow up.
    - Review survey responses.
    - Followup discussion of:
        - Further TaT assistance resources.
        - Integrating HS and other volunteers.
        - Can someone other than Matt help to find partners to do TaT presentations?
        - The Counseling office at the HS is in charge of CS hours.
            - We need a handout for the HS (and other places) to get people on the volunteer list to help people.

        - Follow up with the Gibson-Aiken Senior Center.
- Preparing for library exterior use (new grounds initiative).
    - Spring for: Internet cafe.
        - Signage?
    - Public Wifi.
        - Will require exterior hardware; weather-ready equipment. Already have grant money set aside.
        - Wiring for the network and power has already been allocated. Drilling will be required.
        - We'll want signage to support.

New business

- AI education & support.
    - Should the Library purchase AI access for free public use.
        - An "AI Class."
        - Note that Claude and ChatGPT have free tiers.
        - We could also furnish human-to-human training in AI.
        - Let's research what other libraries are doing with AI for the public.
        - If there is the potential for public protest against this, we can open a forum for this for the public to discuss Ethics (see below).
    - Other AI discussions (e.g., Ethics and social impact).
- Equipment wants:
    - We have 2 LCD projects in LOT that we might want to upgrade.
        - They need to be added to the LOT catalog also.
        - Circulation: Sporadic.
        - Need: Circulation numbers (added to To DO list).
        - Friends might furnish the money.
        - There is some policy question about liability for LOT items that are more valuable than a particular amount. eBike agreement could be used for LCD projectors.
    - Portable PA system that can be lent out.
        - See above.
- Add to agenda for next meeting: Regular schedule of equipment replacement for staff & patrons.

Next meeting

- Date: November 4 @4:30pm.
- Adjournment: 5:36pm.

Action items

- Matt Follow up with Ann Varilly re: her friend who did Security.
- Matt HS posting. https://buhs.wsesdvt.org/community-service.html

- Matt Furnish circulation numbers for LCD projectors.
- Bob Ferrante Write the copy for the flyer for TaT (2: Youth audience; Adult audience).
- Bob Ferrante Brief research into what other libraries do with AI for the public.