

Broome Country Public Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Session Meeting Minutes – 07.13.23

Members Present: Jeffri Boisvert, Katie Bowers, Al Buyck (remote), Vikki Collazo, Peter DeWind, Jennifer Embree, Charmian Foster, JoAnne Hanrahan, Jill Kissick-Castro, Kate Miller-Corcoran

Also Present: Josias Bartram, Jennifer Church, Laura Haynes, Judd Karlman, Sherry Kowalski, Maureen Lee, Kathleen Shores, Rebecca Stone

Call to Order: J. Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 5:31pm on Thursday, June 8th, 2023.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: Maureen Lee, a member of the public, has made comment regarding her belief that the LGBTQ+ programming is being given unfair prioritization over other groups, such as for the homeless, and other groups served by the library. She believes that LGBTQ+ groups are offensive to families and the wider Christian community. She also believes that LGBTQ+ programs should not happen at the library. Lee also expressed that the library should discriminate against a religious group (The Satanic Temple) and forbid them use of library space for their programs. She also spent a period of time proselytizing/advocating for Christianity, and made comments that the increase of criminal activity in the US is due to the US being a non-Christian nation. The Board did not issue a response, per board policy regarding public comments that are not made to the Board in writing. Public comments were closed at 5:37pm with no further comments from the public.

Minutes of Last Board Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by V. Collazo, seconded by J. Kissick-Castro. Passed unanimously.

New Appointments/Resignations: Ken Normile, one of the custodial staff, tendered a letter of resignation. He mentioned in said letter that he enjoyed his time at the library and J. Bartram mentioned that the library would miss him. Motion to accept his resignation was made by C. Foster, seconded by J. Boisvert. Passed unanimously.

New Business

First Amendment and Meeting Room Policy: The Satanic Temple of Albany has booked a space in the library for events over the summer. This is not in violation of our Meeting Room Policy or Code of Conduct, which allows for recognized non-profit organizations to book library spaces. A. Buyck asked a question about banning all groups from booking library space, but the Board believes that this runs counter to our mission to serve the public. J. Bartram noted that the county executive's office is aware of the situation and that we have their support. The Board approved the Meeting Room Policy and stands behind it. J. Kissick-Castro mentioned that having public comment allows inflammatory speech and J. Church outlined that it does not allow harassment of individuals or invading of personal space.

"Board Picks" Bookmarks: J. Karlman handed out bookmarks to the Board and encouraged the Board to tuck them into our favorite books; either as they are or with our written comments/reviews.

Envisionware Contract Renewal: J. Bartram mentioned that the contract for LDS Scanning and self-checkout maintenance is up for renewal. The contract is the same amount as last year and is covered by the budget. Motion to accept the contract was made by J. Kissick-Castro, seconded by V. Collazo. Passed

unanimously.

Broome Leadership Institute: The library is nominating Laura Haynes to attend this year. The Friends has volunteered to pay to send one recommended library staff member per year. V. Collazo mentioned that it is an exciting program and very valuable. J. Bartram concurs, having been a part of the program last year. J. Hanrahan says that the Friends support this unanimously as part of their strategic plan for library staff development.

Old Business

Farm to Library Program: J. Bartram mentions that the new produce refrigerator is very popular, emptying completely every time it has been stocked. It supplies free fruit and vegetables to the public. Kids in particular have been very excited about it. (Summer Reading for children is at pre-pandemic numbers and the produce is visible on the way to Youth Services) There was discussion of perhaps providing produce, such as bananas, more often at intervals throughout the year. Staff has been participating and food is labeled to promote education of different types of fruits and vegetables.

Construction Updates: The library automatic door opener is slated to be fixed tomorrow (7/14). The full replacement of the doors is slated for the 25th. There will be a loss of the usage of them for 8-14 days, as additional masonry repairs will happen as well. Foot traffic will be directed through the parking lot facing emergency door in the Decker room. The larger construction projects are being worked on by J. Bartram to get the bids approved and move them forward.

Budget Update: There was a last-minute budget meeting yesterday with the county executive's office. They are asking us to close a 50k gap in the projected county budget by reducing spending and making cuts. The county shortfall is being distributed across departments. Staffing has not been singled out for elimination and they still support the new positions that we proposed.

Reports

J. Hanrahan mentioned attending a 4CLS training session with K. Bowers and K. Miller-Corcoran. J. Bartram would like 100% participation to fulfill the state required 2 hours of continuing education.

DEI Committee: J K-C mentions that DEI met and discussed DEI training for Board and Staff. Josias has a contact that might fit. The contact was providing an audit, but that might be for the future, but focusing on in-person face-to-face training sessions. Jill will have a meeting with Jill tomorrow to discuss what she can provide.

Strategic Planning Committee: The strategic planning committee is looking at creating a new strategic plan. We've done a fantastic job fulfilling our six goals based on the ALA's "Service Responses". The major goal is to create sustainable workloads through work efficiencies. Each goal has an assigned staff member and non-staff member.

Motion to adjourn made by K. Bowers and seconded by K. Miller-Corcoran. Passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 6:28pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Boisvert*