

Broome Country Public Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Session Meeting Minutes – 09.14.23

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

Also Present: Josias Bartram, Imara deMontfort, Laura Haynes, Judd Karlman, Sherry Kowalski, Rebecca Stone

Call to Order: J. Hanrahan called the meeting to order at 5:30pm on Thursday, September 14th, 2023.

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Public Comments: None

Minutes of Last Board Meeting: Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting was made by A. Buyck, seconded by C. Foster, after a correction of the board members present. Passed unanimously.

New Appointments/Resignations: Tyler Hurlburt has been terminated from the position of custodial worker. Motion to accept this termination was made by K. Miller-Corcoran, seconded by A. Buyck. Passed unanimously.

Chris Burke has been hired to the position of custodial worker. Motion to accept this appointment was made by J. Kissick-Castro, seconded by K. Miller-Corcoran. Passed unanimously.

New Business

Hoyt Foundation Grant: J. Bartram mentioned the opportunity to proceed with a grant to fund the proposed updates for the library reading garden, such as educational gardening, art, gazebo renovations, and signage. The garden itself will be redesigned for easier maintenance, since the bulk of such has been generously handled by the Friends. J. Hanrahan mentioned that it needs professional attention to address some of the larger issues. The grant will be handled through the Friends. Motion to proceed with the grant application was made by V. Collazo, seconded by K. Bowers.

Board Training: There was discussion of Board training, both submission of necessary documentation for continuing education attendance and of a training session through the BCPL itself. J. Kissick-Castro has been speaker with an outside consultant to schedule a session for the Board. A motion to accept the proposal of the Board training session was made by A. Buyck, seconded by K. Miller-Corcoran. Passed unanimously.

CSEA Contract: The union approved the contract changes with increases of both a flat increase and a percentage for the next two years. Motion to accept these updates was made by C. Foster, seconded by J. Kissick-Castro.

Literacy Volunteers: J. Bartram and J. Hanrahan had a positive meeting with the head of the Literacy Volunteers, a group that rents space on the second floor of the library. The Board discussed an adjustment of both the rent and the size of the leasing space. The lease agreement will be part of the next Board meeting.

Budget: The library has updated our budget to reflect the requested budget cuts. Motion to approve the budget changes was made by S. Glose, seconded by K. Miller-Corcoran. Jason Garner's budget address went well and the library was specifically recognized for the work that has been done to support the community. J. Hanrahan was pleased.

Narcan Distribution: I. deMontfort mentioned that Bob Benki would prefer anything of this manner to be managed in-house due to liability concerns. J. Bartram would like to work directly with the county health department which is working through various local organizations. J. Hanrahan mentions that it dovetails well with the Peer Support initiative.

Old Business

Annual Report: The printed annual report for 2022 is finished and J. Bartram is distributing to appropriate parties. The Board is very pleased with the finished product.

Reports

J. Bartram mentioned the current and ongoing workload and mental health impacts for staff. There have been conversations about relocating the Reference staff as they are disconnected from the other departments and staff given their location in the building. Staff are being harassed by banned patrons. There was an altercation in the Peer Support room and security got involved. These incidents are mentally and emotionally taxing for the staff. Some attendees made suggestions and voiced ideas for staff support. Lack of staff is still a pressing issue. J. Karlman mentioned that Peer Support has been a huge help to minimize and prevent some of these events.

Motion to adjourn made by K. Miller Corcoran and seconded by A. Buyck. Passed unanimously.

Meeting ended at 7:12pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Jeffri Boisvert*