

When: 6:30p, Monday, January 23, 2023 / Where: Zoom

Attendees: David Harmon, Gretchen Wetherby, Lydia Ievins, Margot Malachowski, Nancy Crowell, Polly Billiel, Tricia Perham, Will Quale / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Public: Ariel Elan

6:33 Call to order

6:37 Minutes from 11/28/22 approved as amended.

Director's Report and program stats

- Food bank logistics, looking to spread out project work over months.
- MC new storytime has been getting good attendance. Angela reading, Mikayla shadowing her.
- Mikayla also hoping to do teen outreach, very enthusiastic.

6:45 Budget — Haven't met, happy the Selectboard loved our budget.

6:47 Special Services — Margot & Caitlin will meet with Jean Canosa-Albano @ Springfield to tap her experience with varied demographic neighborhoods.

Building and Maintenance — Recent meeting, discussed language of changing re-allocation request

6:56 Personnel — nothing to report

Secretary's report — all well

6:56 Friends — Hoping to have tech school build bench for Carnegie grounds. Found some nice armchairs.

6:57 Discussion, State Aid funds

- In addition to conference attendance, would also like to do more general training. Maybe have consultants come in, 1x/year personal development mornings.
- Good idea to have state aid budget brought out separately. Caitlin can do on her own, present to Trustees, no need to involve Budget Committee. Operating costs shouldn't come out of State Aid. Makes sense to be more intentional about what projects to fund and clarify guidelines/priorities.

7:06 Discussion, recruiting an additional trustee

Items not anticipated

- Challenges to 1st Amendment policy — activists showing up at some libraries asking questions of staff and recording video, sometimes posting online. Caitlin has distributed a slideshow that has been shared widely in the state. We follow the state's rules: you can record anyone in public but you can't go in employee-only zones. "Yes, you're allowed to record, do you have any questions about the collection or our services?" "Yes, our salaries are public info, here's how you can find that data online! I'd be happy to discuss our budget with you." Whole staff has been briefed, knows what to say. Caitlin will share the distributed slideshow with Trustees.
- Discussion of options for installing panic buttons to our circ desks. Caitlin will gather more info.
- Upcoming public forum — keep at MC, offer Zoom option, masks strongly encouraged and provided.

Upcoming meetings:

- Full Board — Mon 2/20, 6:30p, Zoom

7:53 Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia Ievins ..: Corresponding Secretary ..: Montague Public Libraries Trustees