

When: 6:00p, Monday, August 21, 2023 / Where: Montague Senior Center

Attendees: David Detmold, Gretchen Wetherby, Louisa Khetttab, Lydia Ievins, Margot Malachowski, Miryam Vesset, Nancy Crowell, Tricia Perham / Library Director: Caitlin Kelley / Absent: Will Quale

6:02 Call to order (vice chair)

Minutes from 7/24/23 approved

6:03 Director's update

- Just hired new children's librarian today, Grae McLaughlin.
- Food pickup: in flux, moving from Hatfield to Chicopee, beautiful new facility, starting with 97 lbs of free produce/&c. Volunteers from Friends will be handling pickup.
- Children's: Whalemobile sold out this weekend.

6:10 Strategic Planning — did meet last week, next meeting 9/20

Building

- Toured Erving lib with Barbara, interesting and useful, framework for how to look at buildings.
- Caitlin drafting new version of tour-feedback form.
- Public survey going out soon, English/Spanish, written/online.
- MC masonry and roof bids solved. Larochelle doing roof, JJS doing masonry. Chris S-L knew both vendors, pleased with contracts. It looks like we'll have more \$ for the windows, since bids came in \$20k under what we were expecting for masonry.
- Further possible visits: Granby, Hadley, Athol, Leicester. Sunderland, Westminster, Greenfield. Encouraging carpools, and/or visit on your own.
- Determining library size? No specific way to figure out how big your lib is supposed to be, but other directors have said we'll be in 12–15k sq ft range. (population x 1.5).

6:31 Personnel — nothing to report

Budget — nothing to report

Secretary — nothing to report

Friends — Good book sale last month. Now handling our paperback recycling (after abrupt end of the Baker&Taylor program we were using), sending to Books Through Bars.

6:33 Approval of amended Bylaws — Tricia moved to approve as discussed and amended, passed unanimously.

Also voted to pass Budget cmte minutes from Nov.

6:37 Ad hoc fundraising committee? Other committees for MPLCP application process?

We'd have to vote to form a new cmte. Start by figuring out what existing cmte roles are, see what else we need. Building Cmte has been heavily involved; will be important that we are all involved. Strategic Planning Cmte will be in charge of how we are marketing the thing. Budget/Personnel not as involved, though question will come up of whether we'll need more staff, especially if building 2 floors of public space, emphasis on staff safety. Caitlin and Strategic Planning will start by looking at Action Plan to discuss how we approach adult collections and programming. Barbara has recommended some resources that are free with ALA membership.

Tricia: we need to have a cohesive message, short and sweet. Nancy: two parts, 1 = actual building that is falling apart and doesn't work for the staff, just a lot of facts; 2 = value of the library, what are you getting for your tax dollars. Maybe what we need first is less a fundraising cmte, more an overall marketing campaign.

Long discussion, lots of ideas. It makes sense for this conversation to include all of us at first. We'll start next month's regular meeting an hour early for this discussion (Lib Construction Program Planning), then decide whether it should be everyone going forward.

Getting out the public survey: QR code, getting people's attention. David suggests using our moose in a graphic, "the moose has run out of room," moose's antlers going out the windows. Caitlin will ask Nina Rossi about drawing moose cartoons for us.

David: we're not really ready for the fundraising cmte conversation. Margot: do ad hoc cmtes have to be just trustees? Round agreement that it would be great to have more people involved. Tricia: great to have 2-3 trustees. David: Ann Harding, Linda Ackerman. (Linda = head of community outreach @ GSB.) Art auction?

7:17 Legislation outlawing book bans, letter to state reps + newspaper op ed

Tabling until next month. New bill recently introduced in MA. We'll ask WQ to redraft using language and numbers of existing bill, removing contentious language "culture wars." David will check with Jo Comerford about any particularly useful language. Caitlin: we do have 2 staff members who identify as non-binary.

7:26 Items not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting — nope

Upcoming meetings:

- Strategic Planning —Wed 9/20, 5p, MC library → Zoom
- Full Board — Mon 9/25, 5p, Senior Center
- Building — TBD, maybe library tour/s, maybe Granby & Hadley → Thu 9/21, 2:50p, Hadley Public Library

7:28 Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

lydia ievins ∴ Secretary ∴ Montague Public Libraries Trustees