



Fletcher Free Library
LIBRARY BOARD of COMMISSIONERS
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Present: Gale Batsimm, Megan Butterfield, Jonathan Chapple-Sokol, Mary Danko, Patrick Kinner, Cate MacLachlan, Amy Mellencamp, Jessica Nordhaus.

Approval of Minutes: from May 8, 2019: Jessica Nordhaus/Megan Butterfield/all in favor

Approval of Agenda: Jessica Nordhaus/Patrick Kinner/all in favor

Welcome and Introductions: Amy Mellencamp welcomed everyone and asked the new Commissioner and nominated Trustee to tell the Commission about themselves. Hemant Ghising arrived in Vermont in 2011. He recently received his Doctorate in Education from UVM. His focus was on the Bhutanese refugee population and bringing students together. Chol Dhoor arrived in Vermont in 2007 from Sudan (now South Sudan). On his first day in Burlington he was given a library card. He sent his first email from the library and went on to work at the help desk at FFL.

Vote: Per the By-Laws, Trustees Cate MacLachlan and Patrick Kinner voted to accept the nominated Trustees: Mona Tolba, who will join the Commission at the September meeting, and Chol Dhoor. Patrick Kinner/Cate MacLachlan/all in favor.

Public Forum: No public attendance to report.

Tech Center Program Report: Dodit Tshibamba, Computer Assistant

Mary Danko explained that before Dodit joined the staff two years ago, the Library only offered Microsoft Office classes. The position began as one identified as a need from the strategic plan. Current free computer classes offered by the library include html, Wordpress, Google 1 & 2, and Dodit has taught computer classes in French as well. There are 8 laptop computers for computer classes. There are 14 computers in the Tech Center for patrons, 2 in the Teen area, and six in the Youth area--one with limited access. The library has about 50 computers. While the City provides IT support, much of it is done in-house. Wordpress has mostly attracted businesspeople. Dodit explained that patrons have asked for certificates, feeling like they are learning valuable skills. Classes have moved from computer programs to apps, all application-based software. This August and September the library will offer 3 Google classes for job seekers through a Google grant. Dodit assists with people learning basic computer skills and learning how to use our downloadable services. Dodit also manages the Intranet for staff, which provides staff access to documents, process and procedures. The library is the department that makes the most use of the Intranet. The Intranet and the library website are both Drupal-based (open source website coding). The Tech Center has been especially full this summer. Mary noted that the library is a one-gig building from Burlington Telecom, but that wiring can be an issue in the historic building. The teen and youth departments have also offered classes, led by Megan Butterfield and Abby

Wanserski, such as the coding classes this summer. The library has computerized services for greater efficiency. Room bookings and museum pass reservations may now be done on the website. Jessica Nordhaus inquired about analytics, and noted that it would be helpful to know where people are landing on the website and how much time they are spending in an area. Hemant Ghising suggested a class on Quickbooks. Mary Danko noted that an intern had recently surveyed libraries to determine what other classes were being offered. Jessica Nordhaus suggested reaching out to Mercy Connections' small business program to promote computer classes.

Friends' Report: Jonathan Chapple-Sokol noted that the Friends of FFL, a nonprofit dedicated to providing funding for library programs and needs, has two new developments. They have converted to in-house bookkeeping instead of using an accounting firm for that. They are also now selling antique or valuable books via eBay. The Friends' paperback sale raised about \$1300. They may also be doing some outdoor pop-up book sales on the library lawn. Their big fall sale is September 11-15.

Director's Report: Mary Danko noted that the pilot Community Partners Desk meets patrons where they are at. The Howard Center staffs the desk on Tuesdays from 2-4. Mary has been talking with the next potential partners. The Summer Challenge Program is not just about reading. This year adults are included in the program. The PAL camp (Parks, Arts & Library) is a new gap camp collaboration between City departments that will happen in late August. The library is one of the largest nutrition sites in the City. We have 80-100 kids for lunch Monday through Thursday.

New Business: Given the current climate and ICE seizures, there was discussion about a letter from the Commission affirming that the library is a place where information is kept private and that all are welcome, regardless of status. Gale will draft a letter after checking with Migrant Justice and ALA and sanctuary city language. She will send it to the Committee for review. Jessica Nordhaus will ask for City approval.

Move to Adjourn: Megan Butterfield/Jessica Nordhaus/all in favor

Next Meetings: Wednesday, September 11, at 8:30 am
Wednesday, November 20, at 8:30 am