

**ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2019
ILSLEY LIBRARY, MIDDLEBURY**

MINUTES - DRAFT

Board decisions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Present:

Board members: Catherine Nichols, President; John Freidin; Faith Gong, Secretary; Alice Eckles; Amy Mincher, Treasurer

Library Director: Dana Hart

Public: Lorrie Muller, President of Friends; Barbara Doyle-Wilch

CALL TO ORDER

See Board Packet for agendas and accompanying documents.

President Catherine Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECISION: The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of January 14, 2019

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from the public. Trustee Alice Eckles used this opportunity to announce that she will not be seeking re-election to the IIsley Board of Trustees (leaving Catherine Nichols and Joe McVeigh on the ballot for two open positions.)

FRIENDS' REPORT

President Lorrie Muller reported that the February book sale was successful, although not as many books were donated. There are currently 210 members of the Friends. A new feature this year will be membership cards to remind members when to renew. Starting in March: Bring your own bag to the book sale – no more plastic!

DATES FOR MARCH BOARD MEETING AND APRIL RETREAT

The March Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, March 5 at 5:30 PM in the IIsley Community Meeting Room.

The April Board Retreat will be on Saturday, April 27 at John Freidin's house, time TBA.

DISCUSSION: TIMELINE FOR LIBRARY EXPANSION/RENOVATION

Dana and Catherine have been gathering information about how to proceed with the library renovation/expansion.

Dana and Catherine met with Christine Graham. Christine Graham was pleased with the Tell Me! Tour results and encouraged the Board to take seriously community concerns about the cost of renovation. She felt that we owe it to the community to take a second look at the options, and whether it's possible to come up with an alternate plan. She also encouraged Dana to look at other bond votes that have passed in Vermont.

Dana, Catherine, and Barbara Doyle-Wilch met with Andrea Murray, an architect from Vermont Integrated Architecture who worked with Lara Keenan on the Shelburne Library renovation. She suggested that the Board's next step should be a timeline that considers external factors (eg: There will be high voter turnout at the 2020 election, and bond votes tend to pass more smoothly when there's high voter turnout.) She mentioned that Shelburne had hired UVM to conduct a survey of what the community would consider a reasonable price tag for the library renovation. Andrea offered to donate her time, pro bono, to help Dana and the Board draft a timeline.

Dana met with Kathleen Ramsey, Town Manager. Dana reported on the Tell Me! Tour. We still have \$18,000 in the fundraising capital budget line, so we could use that to solicit new bids as long as we get town approval. We have freedom as to how we would solicit bids/explore other options – there is no specific process that we have to go through.

Dana's recommendation is that we take Andrea Murray up on her offer to help us come up with a timeline.

Barbara shared from her experience consulting on the Shelburne Library renovation, in which 9 months-1 year were spent asking the community to weigh in on various library layouts. In the end, only about \$600,000 was raised privately; almost the entire renovation was bonded.

John voiced skepticism that we can do anything worth doing for \$5 million.

The Board supported Dana's recommendation to proceed with Andrea Murray's offer to donate her time towards drafting a timeline.

PLANNING FOR TELL ME! TOUR PRESENTATION

The dates will be Monday, February 25 at 5:30 PM and Wednesday, February 27 at 12:30 PM.

Dana will give a slightly shorter version of what she presented to the Board. The goal is to let those who participated in the focus groups hear the results and offer feedback, as well as to hear from those who weren't able to attend the original focus groups.

The hope is that as many Board members will attend as possible, and that they will also personally invite those who attended the focus groups that they hosted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dana reported that Ilsley received a small grant (\$500) towards family book discussion events.

The Friends gave \$2500 towards soft seating for the lobby (where new nonfiction is currently shelved) with the understanding that Dana would fundraise a matching amount. Amy Mincher volunteered to represent the Board on the committee to select the seating.

The very impressive figure that, according to the ALA calculator, Ilsley provided services valued at \$3.2 million in FY18, will be included in an infographic sheet to be prepared by Matt Heywood of The Image Farm.

Dana reported that signage will be improved for the library coffee.

BOARD COMMENTS

Amy Mincher wondered whether Dana had considered presenting about the Tell Me! Tours at the VLA spring conference. Dana does not plan to, but Tricia Allen is submitting a proposal to talk about mid-grade chapter books.

ADJOURNMENT

President Catherine Nichols declared the meeting adjourned at 7:01PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, March 5th, 5:30PM, Jessica Swift Community Room

Respectfully Submitted,
Faith Gong, Secretary