

ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 5, 2019
JESSICA SWIFT COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM, ILSLEY LIBRARY

MINUTES – APPROVED

Board decisions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Present:

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

Library Director: Dana Hart.

Public: Joe McVeigh, Recording Secretary; Lorrie Muller, President of the Friends of the Library

CALL TO ORDER

See Board Packet <Board Packet 3.5.2019.pdf> for agenda and accompanying documents.

President Catherine Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:32pm.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECISION: The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of February 11, 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

FRIENDS' REPORT

Lorrie Muller of the Friends reported that 13 college students had attended the monthly book sale. A good response to a membership appeal from the newsletter, brought in \$1700 in new/renewed membership fees in addition to \$400+ from the book sale.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON POLICY

John, Joe, and Dana presented three new policies for board review and discussion: a policy on conflict of interest, a policy on environmental sustainability, and a policy on treatment of gifts. These policies may be voted on at the next board meeting.

TIMELINE FOR LIBRARY EXPANSION

Dana met with Andrea Murray who has agreed to help the board think about a time-line for decision-making on the proposed library expansion. Dana sent the document to Christine Graham for additional input. The idea is to have a roadmap moving forward to decision-making. For example, we might try for a bond vote for November 2020 depending on the climate of the community. Or perhaps we would aim for 2023.

The board had a wide-ranging discussion about the timeline.

Joe noted his concern about a perceived lack of public support. Could we offer a bond vote without that kind of support?

Dana suggested starting with Tell Me More Tour. Perhaps be more intentional about gathering support. We would need to have fundraising alongside a bond vote. From April to August we could engage the community and refine our priorities. Then in September we could decide what we really want to get done and go back to the architects.

John noted the need for community education and inspiration. We need to get specifics to people and have a series of events. We need to engage as many people as possible through as many means as possible and then elicit feedback. We need an initial fundraising for next phase of architectural services. Dana noted that we do have money set aside for Christine Graham's services that could be used for architectural design.

John noted that this shouldn't be a widespread fundraising attempt, because we don't want to subvert our effort of raising larger donations down the road.

Amy noted that any timeline should include the fundraising portion and goals.

Joe noted that we need emotional involvement, more people, move ahead on different fronts.

John said that people give money to people. Success of the project will depend on the generosity and commitment of a dozen people. We need people who are friendly with the 24 people who are part of the dozen. Someone who will give us \$500,000.

Who do we know who can do this? Development is about developing relationships over time; winning people over over a period of years. – Library has been funded by the town.

Faith said that she didn't know who those people are in Middlebury: but in Cornwall and Weybridge . . . get surrounding towns involved. The greater Middlebury area. Maybe not even residents of Vermont. If we want to get money from people with capacity to give \$1,000,000 etc. we need to build connections to towns like Cornwall and Weybridge.

The major issue seems to be whether or not we tear down the existing building. Need to consider carefully. Biggest problem is where are you going to put the children. If move, where to?

PLANNING FOR BOARD RETREAT

Dana is working with Barbara Doyle-Wilch to plan for the April board retreat. Barbara will attend the April board meeting to get feedback from the board on plans for the day.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dana Hart directed board members to her written report. She noted that the town appeared to have approved the new position and that she would take action to fill it. She invited members to email her with comments on subsequent phases for the planned expansion.

THANKS

The board expressed gratitude to outgoing trustee Alice Eckles for her service.

ADJOURNMENT

President Catherine Nichols adjourned the meeting at 6:58p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Monday, April 8th at 5:30 p.m. in the Jessica Swift Community Meeting Room.