

Isley Board Minutes

May 13, 2024

Meg Baker, Barbara Doyle-Wilch, Joe McVeigh, Natasha Sen, and Dana Hart were present, and Fiona Gong took notes. Claire Tebbs was not present

Directors Report

A copy of Dana's report is attached to these minutes.

The board discussed the passage of the bond vote.

A donor to the capital campaign would like to give a gift of securities, and the logistics for these types of donations. The board discussed if there was a need to have a fundraising person to manage fundraising for the Capital Campaign. At this time, there is no need, but if that changes, a current staff person could fill the position. In addition to other grants, Dana is applying for a Walter Cerf grant of up to 25,000 dollars.

The books that Dana left at Satori smelled of marijuana to some board members and not to others; Dana said that library staff responded similarly. As a backup, and since this space is free, the Selectboard will sign a letter of intent with Satori for temporary book storage, while Dana continues to search for another suitable space.

Dana described preliminary staffing and operation plans for the library during the renovation. A youth department librarian will be transitioning out of her part time role into retirement, and this position will not be replaced until after the transition. Two regular staff will be in the Duclos Building each day, as well as one page, and the rest of the staff will work remotely. In addition to this, there will be subs and work studies. The Friends could help by taking requested materials back and forth from storage, and the board hopes that the Friends continue their monthly book sales.

The board discussed the Memorial Day Parade. The library is registered to march in the parade, so it just needs to recruit marchers. Tricia is coordinating outreach on behalf of library staff, and Meg offered to be the point person on the board for the parade. The upcoming 100th anniversary and thank you's would be appropriate messages for the signs for the parade. The Summer Reading Program also kicks off with the parade.

Dana will be taking two weeks off, and Royce McGrath will be in charge while Dana is away.

Library Collection Spending Report

A copy of the library collection spending report is attached to these minutes. The board discussed the report and how information regarding spending and the collections is tracked. Dana will discuss the possibility of separately identifying the resources used by teens, rather than including them with children. The board also discussed the potential impact of new legislation on the ability of parent guardians to access information about children's library activity, and the need to update library policies that relate to this.

The board discussed digital circulations for children, ebooks and audiobooks. The board discussed concerns about the cost of ebook subscriptions. The physical collection has a much better value, but for Ilsley it makes sense to invest in the ebooks, and there is no storage cost for them. Maintaining a print collection also has costs. Ebooks and digital books skyrocketed during the pandemic and their usage increases every year. Ebooks will also be useful during the construction period.

Next Steps In Renovation and Expansion Project

The board discussed the next steps in the renovation project, including the role of the Project 100 Team going forward. The management of the project will be shifting, as the town will be managing the construction project. The Trustees' role will be to support the capital campaign and ensure that during the transition, the library is fulfilling its mission.

The board discussed logistical issues during the time that the library will be operating out of the Duclos Building, such as coordinating operating hours with the bank; handicapped access; and after hours book returns.

The library staff will meet with the architects May 14 to review the schematic design, and then the next phase is design development.

Fundraising will continue. The private phase of the capital campaign will be wrapped up this summer, and then the campaign will move into a short public phase that ends in early to mid-November. The goal of the public phase is to raise \$200,000. The board discussed various "branding" opportunities in connection with the funding campaign, including opportunities to name spaces in the new library. The board also discussed ideas for fundraisers, such as auctioning off artwork.

Retreat

As the library begins this new phase in its renovation plan, Meg is thinking about roles and responsibilities, of the Ilsley100 team, the Friends, and the Trustees. The retreat will focus on the bridge plan and the capital campaign.

The retreat will be on Tuesday, June 18th from 9-3.

Board Comments and Unfinished Business

Barbara is organizing a brainstorming session for anyone who is interested to begin planning the library's 100 birthday bash. The date for the birthday is September 24, which is the exact date of the library's dedication. The board also discussed events around the 100th birthday to celebrate the old library and welcome the new one.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:23. The next Trustees meeting will be held on June 10 at 5 p.m. in the Town Office conference room.