

Broome Country Public Library
Board of Trustees
Regular Session Meeting Minutes - 10.14.21

Members Present: Jeffrey Boisvert, Katie Bowers, Peter DeWind, JoAnne Hanrahan, Jill Kissick-Castro, Kate Miller-Corcoran, Peg Shiel, Sara Tarricone, Emily Wall

Absent: Jennifer Embree, Kathy Jablonowski

Also Present: Josias Bartram, Sherri Kowalski, Jennifer Keysor, Allen Buyck, Jennifer Church

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by J. Hanrahan at 5:32pm.

Public Comments: None

Amendments to the Agenda: None

Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

E. Wall made a motion to approve the minutes from the previous board meeting, S. Tarricone seconded. Passed unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations: Violet Kravitz was hired to fill a part-time role within the library. J. Boisvert made a motion to approve the hiring, J. Kissick-Castro seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Ken Homer has discussed tendering his resignation due to a future leave of absence, but as we are unsure of the exact plans surrounded this the Board decided to wait on taking action.

New Business:

Klee Foundation: After Tioga Downs stopped the grant funding we were applying for in regard to our peer counselor initiative, we received a positive response from the Klee Foundation. We included some funds from the library and staff time for match purposes. This will be submitted through the Friends. S. Tarricone made a motion to approve the submittal, which was seconded by J. Kissick-Castro. Passed unanimously.

Director's Performance Review: Questions regarding the director's performance was sent to the Board. S. Tarricone suggested that we create a better set of procedures to guide the process and set measurable goals. The strategic planning committee will be meeting next month and measurable future goals are intrinsic to the new plan. General agreement amongst the Board was that this was a good way to start this process.

Board Nominating Committee: The nominating committee (consisting of S. Tarricone, P. Shiel, and K. Jablonowski) have been looking for candidates to fill two seats; those of P. Shiel, who has reached her 10-year term limit, and K. Jablonowski, who has finished her 5-year term. There was discussion regarding the bylaws and the number of candidates expected to be put forth for consideration. K. Bowers asked for clarification surrounding nominating "from-the-floor" portion of the bylaws. S.

Tarricone is requesting recommendations from the Board, to be submitted to the nominating committee before October 30th. The nominating committee is looking to have the Board vote on the candidates in November's board meeting.

Old Business:

Digital Literacy Grant: This is a repeat of the program we did last year, since funding was still available. The library is partnering with the Literacy Volunteers for the computer literacy program. E. Wall made a motion to approve the application, which was seconded by P. DeWind. Passed unanimously.

Director's report:

The library had a "First Amendment Audit" situation which was handled flawlessly by the staff and the library's security. This topic prompted discussion regarding the library's rule of prohibiting photography and video recording within the library. It was agreed that it is a complicated topic, especially considering the library's duty to protect the privacy of our patrons. J. Bartram to draft language for updating and clarifying our policies on this front.

J. Bartram presented a digital reference document to track local contacts and jargon, which will be especially helpful for new board members and future board members.

The painting exhibit, "Americans Who Tell the Truth" went very well. Kudos to the library staff and Sherri in particular for helping this be a success.

S. Kowalski spoke about the Great Give Back initiative, which has had a lot of positive feedback. The initiative revolves around creating care packages for chemotherapy patients, along with hand-written cards. She has been thrilled with the result, but has been trying to gather more physical donations. S. Tarricone reminded her that she can come to the Board for such requests, so that we can participate and show our support.

Circle K has been helping to package the Grab-and-Go bags for the library.

Final Comments:

J. Bartram and J. Hanrahan met with Chris Whalen for PR purposes and having Jason Garner here to speak about the 20th anniversary of the library being located in our current building, as well as the 1st year anniversary of Josias's hiring.

Motion to adjourn by P. DeWind, seconded by J. Kissick-Castro.

Meeting ended at 6:32pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Boisvert