

Brooks Memorial Library
Strategic Planning Committee Meeting Minutes
November 2, 2016 (Wednesday) 4:30 p.m.
Local History Room

1/ Meeting called to order at 4:40 p.m. Attendees were Starr Latronica, Jeanne Walsh, Lindsay Bellville, Susan Troy, Howard Burrows, Connie Bresnahan, Elizabeth Tannenbaum, Jane Southworth. Absent were: Pam Becker, Jennifer Lann, and Kate Wylie.

2. Agenda reviewed- added report on Survey by Jeanne Walsh

3. No public comment, no public present

4. Minutes of October 20, 2016 approved as presented

5. Old Business

a. Survey- **Jeanne Walsh** reported that the survey had been taken down from the website although Jennifer Lann's daughter Emma continues to enter results from paper surveys. **Jeanne will send an email** with the numerical results of the surveys to those who have indicated an interest. **Jeanne** will also print three copies of the survey comments for those who are interested. Many thanks to Jeanne for overseeing the survey activities.

b/ Jane provided her summaries of the SOAR program and the Community Conversations. The discussion focused on one of the phrases recorded from the Community Conversations which included the words "basic adult literacy". This sparked a discussion of what our activities should be, and the consensus was that *our role in the community is to support basic adult literacy through collaboration.*

c. **Sue Troy's** assignment for this meeting was to provide on paper her observations from survey responses. She had four points to make

- "Books and hard copy resources (magazines/dvds) were consistently mentioned in the comments as most important."
- "Services (assistance and programs) and Building (comfortable spaces and small reading rooms) obtained the highest scores in the survey."
- "All the children's programs had high scores."
- "We don't need to consider every response for the plan, just the trends."

d. **Starr LaTronica** was tasked with providing language for the mission/vision statements. Starr's contribution is as follows, containing two mission statements with explanatory sentences.

- **Mission:** "Engaging, inspiring, informing, and catalyzing all members of the Brattleboro community through connections with shared resources."

Or

- "Engage, inspire, inform, and catalyze all members of the community through connections with shared resources."

Illustrative Sentences follow:

1. "Provide free and open access to materials, resources, and tools to advance individual and/or collective exploration."
2. "Convene conversations, create collaborations, and curate connections with community leaders, organizations, and individuals." And
3. "Support cultural opportunities and experiences through programs, meetings, and exhibits within the library space and in concert with other venues."

The **Vision Statement** was provided and revised to read: "All members of the community recognize the value and utilize the resources of the library to achieve their aspirations."

After a discussion of the Vision Statement, Connie Bresnahan proposed the following:
“All members of the community recognize the value and utilize the resources of the library to spark curiosity and achieve aspirations.”

e. **Lindsay Bellville** provided a Service Response specific to teens:

“Support teens by providing materials, resources, and programming for education, entertainment, and engagement, both within the library and in the community.”

The committee liked this. It sparked a discussion about service responses by life stages, but this was rejected.

f. **Jennifer Lann** was tasked with providing language for a priority that would combine those we have had which have included curiosity and imagination. She has provided the following:

“Support life-long learning and stimulate the imagination of library users through resources and programming for reading, viewing, listening, and conversing.”

g. **Jeanne Walsh/Jennifer Lann** were tasked with providing language for a technology service priority. The Library’s Technology Committee took a whole meeting to come up with some draft language for this, providing ideas that should go in. Their contribution is quoted verbatim here.:

“Provide access to current and emerging technologies, both on public and personal devices, to facilitate both technology literacy and information literacy. (i.e. the ability to find, evaluate, and use information.)”

“Facilitate community connections, conversations, and creation via technology.”

“Provide and enable the use of technology for information literacy, (e.g. find, evaluate, and use information.)”

“We are an information, technological and community hub. {‘The library leads to all roads: start here.’}”

h. **Pam Becker** was tasked with providing language on the Ronald Read bequest and money management strategy. Her entire contribution was attached to the Agenda and was briefly edited by the group.

Meeting adjourned at 6 p.m.

Next Meetings: November 17, December 1, December 14.

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Submitted by Jane Southworth, chair