

BROOKS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 10, 2020

Trustees Present: Jennifer Rowe, Connie Bresnahan, Howard Burrows, Sirkka Kauffman, Adam Franklin-Lyons, Jane Southworth, and John Woodward

Also, Present: Starr Latronica (Library Director), Courtney Carey (Circulation Manager), Hollis Carlisle (Recording Secretary), John Komar (Friends of the Library), and A.J. MacDonald, a new patron wanting to be involved in the community.

Call to Order: Jenny called the meeting to order at 4:45 pm.

Agenda Changes or Additions: Starr noted a typo (incorrect dating) on the agenda and that she wanted to add a request regarding Mango (a language learning program) to New Business.

Public Comments: None

Minutes of January 14, 2020 meeting: Jane moved to accept the minutes, acknowledging that the agenda date had been incorrectly stated; seconded by Connie. Passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Friends of the Library: John Komar reported that the FOBML Board is working on the following items 1) method of designating the purpose for monies received (e.g. distinguishing between the Annual Appeal funds and those targeted for 1st Wednesdays) 2) a more economical method of producing/distributing the newsletter 3) a determination of the feasibility of a bus trip to Louisa May Alcott's home in Concord, MA.

Buildings and Grounds: No meeting was held.

Finance/Asset Development: Adam reported on two grant applications that are in process.

Fine Arts: No meeting was held.

Planning: No meeting was held.

Technology: Starr stated that the last week of February will be busy with the web developers here, working with Jeanne, Matt, Chloe and various staff members as needed.

Advocacy and Liaison to national/regional library organizations: Starr attended the ALA midwinter conference in Philadelphia. She will be reporting on this later.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Jenny proposed that the review of standing committees and individuals assigned roles be reviewed after each group has responded.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Community engagement and outreach: Howard expects to complete his committee report soon.

Starr had a call from a Trustee in New Hampshire requesting a joint meeting of trustees at his library in New London. The tentative date is April 16th.

Board Positions: Interviews have been conducted and two individuals have been selected for election at Town meeting. Gabriel I. Sistare will be nominated for a one-year term to fill the position vacated by Adam. Karen Tyler's name will be put forth for the full three year term, currently held by Connie Bresnahan. Jane proposed that the board approve these individuals and Sirkka seconded this motion. The board unanimously passed the motion.

The new term begins in April. Leo will be President and Jenny Treasurer. The positions of Vice President and Secretary are open. Any committee changes will need to be approved by Leo.

Staff Development Event: Starr has heard from two staff members interested in working on this event.

NEW BUSINESS:

Volunteer Recognition: Courtney provided information on an event to happen in April. Connie proposed that the Trustees allocate funds from the board approved project fund. Jane seconded and the board passed this request.

Request for Photographer: Starr reported that the web developers have requested photographs, so she has contacted an individual who will help with this as a favor to the library.

Request for free cards for non-residents: BML has received a request for free library cards for two asylum seekers who live outside of Brattleboro to access Mango (an online language learning program), in order to learn English. There was much discussion and the Board declined to give out cards, as the funds account for a revenue line in the Town budget. The Board decided will set aside some funds for those in need and explore a "pay it forward" initiative that would encourage the public to contribute. Staff will discuss and draft parameters and procedures for Board consideration.

Adjourn: at 7:45 Jane moved and Sirkka seconded that the meeting adjourn.

Hollis Carlisle, Recording Secretary

Connie Bresnahan, Board Secretary