

Brooks Memorial Library Technology Committee Minutes, June 30, 2021

Called to order at 4:10

Minutes of March 31, 2021 approved

No public comment

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Update on Website

Booking tool: Matt reports that we evaluated three suggested plug-ins from MRW, and a new option has come to our attention that we will also evaluate. One of the things we're thinking about is focusing on the Community Meeting Room and finding a tool that meets the complex criteria for that space. Booking the other spaces is fundamentally simpler.

Events calendar: Chloe reports that we're working with processes for recurring events using tags, which has largely solved the problems (we made a note to get rid of the "see all" button for recurring events).

Our relationship with MRW, our Website Developers from Easthampton, MA: Starr clarified details of the six-month continuing service contract, which we can renew when the time comes. We're happy with their service thus far. We will soon sign off on the project as a whole, after a couple of details are addressed, specifically: Matt will check on the lingering donation button question and Starr will talk to MRW about the possibility of closing out the main project while they continue to work on a booking tool.

VISTA staff person

We had two great candidates, but both declined. Robyn Baylor of VT VISTA said we can recruit locally if we want. It merits further conversation. Do we want to run with this or let it ride for another year? Starr and staff will discuss it further. We noted that VISTAs face limited incomes and housing challenges.

Expansion of library materials

Internet hot spots are now available to check out, and we've promoted them in the newsletter and on website. Ebikes are also available, and the program has been very popular. New possibilities: Edible Brattleboro would be interested in helping us get fancy kitchen stuff, e.g., canning supplies, food processors, etc. We also got a request for tools from people working on trails. Starr is looking into fun things like disc golf and bocce.

NEW BUSINESS

Statement of purpose for the Technology Committee

We sought language to describe the committee's purpose and slipped into a stream of consciousness: *Proactively evaluate and collect technological tools so that the community can access resources to participate in 21st century; It should cover both a shovel and an internet hotspot; "Technological Literacy?" Relevant, but more of a service goal than the fundamental purpose; "Evaluating, collecting, instructing;" "Explore, access, teach, train in the use of varied technological resources;" "Make available" versus "collect," we make things available for people, instruction is part of that; "to meet the needs of the local community;" What is the role of our committee within the library? We're not a gatekeeper where things have to go to us, but we have an interest in the tech-heavy elements of library service; all of the Library of Things? Well, maybe not museum passes, but a lot of Things, and resources like public wifi.*

Proposal for a statement:

"Investigates, guides, and advises acquisition and promotion of technological resources to meet the needs of the local community."

We can keep refining that if we choose.

Priorities/plans for next 12 months

- Explore possibilities for enhanced library of things (including virtual reality?)
- Learn the community's interests and needs as we proceed with the next strategic plan.

Next meeting date: August 25th