

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES April 12, 2023

Fitchburg Public Library
610 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

Trustees present were: Chair Matthew Bruun, Sabrina Holley-Williams, Mary Rice Hurley, Joanne Huse, Cynthia Jones, Jacalyn Kremer, Eric Mbunwe and Jim Walsh. Also present were Director Deb Hinkle and Assistant Director Jean Tenander.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF March 8, 2023

The minutes of the March 8, 2023 meeting were approved. Jacalyn Kremer abstained from voting as she had been absent on March 8.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bruun said he would include his report in the Building Committee discussion.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Hinkle drew the attention of the Trustees to the marketing campaign financial report from Sitka Creations, the marketing firm the Trustees have hired to help raise money for the Building Project. The report lists the work completed and the costs to date.

The Director also asked the Trustees to look at the proposed Gifts and Donations Policy included in their packet and be prepared to discuss and vote on it at the next meeting.

She also said the Meeting Room Policy would have to be changed once we are installed in the temporary space.

Director Hinkle said the Library Trustees had been approached by the Pages for Peace Foundation and offered the chance to display the Big Book: Pages for Peace at our renovated library. The exhibit is a giant book, 12' by 20', written by school children all over the world over a 12 year span. It has been displayed at the UN, the JFK Library and other venues.

The Trustees thought it was a great idea but it would require thought to figure out where to display it. The exhibition time would probably be for a minimum of 90 days and would take up a great deal of space. Jim Walsh suggested having it start 6 months after we open so that the public could get used to the new configuration of the Library before part of it was blocked off. The Trustees seemed in favor of taking this opportunity as long as a solution to an appropriate display space could be worked out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee- Joanne Huse met with Jim Hohman. She said he was neither hopeful nor pessimistic. He has suggested changing some of the investments. Chair Bruun said the Library will be using some of the Trust Funds in aid of the Building Project.

Building Committee- Director Hinkle reported that an off site storage space had been found. It is an old school on Wanoosnoc Road. Facilities and DPW will make sure it is cleaned before any items are moved there.

Chair Bruun said the delay in moving into our temporary space has been due to an issue arising over whether the space in question is categorized as “office space” or “assembly space”. It was considered an “office space” when used by City Hall but it is now going to be used as an “assembly space”. The Building Inspector and the Facilities Director have said this change in categorization mandates certain physical changes. This in turn means a new bid with new specifications must go out.

In response to a question Director Hinkle said she thought we should wait to put anything into storage until we have first occupied our temporary space. What we cannot take with us will go into storage.

Nominating Committee- There was no report from the Nominating Committee.

NEW BUSINESS

Jacalyn Kremer said she wanted to ask the Trustees to think about becoming involved in the Community Read. She said the Library could possibly host a program. She said we could possibly use a room at FSU while we are out of our own building.

Mary Rice Hurley said she thought the Trustees should continue the practice of thanking the staff during the upcoming National Library Week by offering a lunch or breakfast as they have before. It was agreed a breakfast will be offered on Friday May 12.

Jim Walsh said tickets are available for performances of Beauty and the Beast performed by Fitchburg High School students.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business.

Respectfully submitted
by Jean Tenander
for Cynthia Jones