



Trustees of The Mary E. Bartlett Memorial Library



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Liz McConnell, Chair Melody Santos, Treasurer Tom Walker, Secretary Melissa Bertoulin Megan Schneider

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2023

Trustees attending: Liz McConnell, Tom Walker, Melody Santos, Melissa Bertoulin, Megan Schneider

From the Library: Janice Wiers - Library Director, Kiki Donis-Wahl - Assistant Director/ Youth Librarian

Others:

Alternate Trustees: Susan Lunn, Kristen Goodrich

Public: Tracy Descoteaux, Russ Kelly

Liz McConnell called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

On a motion from Melody, with a second by Melissa the 7/10/2023 meeting minutes were unanimously accepted with the addition of attaching the Friends of the MEB Library Presidents Report. Liz - aye, Melissa - aye, Tom - aye, Melody - aye, Megan - aye.

Correspondence: None

Public Comment: None

Directors Report:

Janice submitted her Director's Report to the trustees in advance of the meeting as usual for review. Also included were the Check Register, Profit and Loss Statement, and Salaries Report. Website traffic, and social media followers continue to grow. There were 1247 in-person visits this month and 0 patrons requesting curbside pick up. With zero curbside pick up requests again this month Janice suggests we no longer track and report this number unless requests go up again - the board agreed. Facebook followers increased by 9 to 711. There were 17 new library card holders added, 15 adults and 2 children. 94 books and 33 other media were added to the collection this month. There was a 10.5% increase in library visits over this month last year. Website visits are up a lot this month, Janice feels it is likely due to the Summer Reading Program. Meeting room use is up again with 16 requests for use this month. On August 21, 2023 at 5:30 the Budget Committee will perform a site walk of the library to see library updates and ascertain possible needs for next year's library budget. Janice plans to add new Trex decking for the

front entrance deck, as well as work on the small rear deck, to the SIP plan. The electricity line item is over budget for the year, but everyone is feeling that pinch. The yearly independent town audit of the library was completed with no corrections needed. The Summer Reading Program had a significant increase in participation with 235 people registering, up from 200 last year. 145 people completed at least one reading challenge resulting in a 61.7% completion rate. The community reading goal of 4000 hours was exceeded by 1,111 hours! The final celebration for the reading program included a concert by Steve Blunt. Amphitheater Raffle Tickets were drawn during the festivities. Janice introduced Kevin Johnston and family, major donors to the amphitheater project. The amphitheater will be named in honor of the late Linda Johnston, past library Trustee and long time library supporter.

OLD BUSINESS:

a: Amphitheater update. Raffle ticket sales brought in \$7300 bringing the total from all funding sources to \$385,765 with the potential of \$61,000 from further donations and grants that haven't been confirmed yet. This puts over the line for funding the project! It was brought to our attention that a project manager will be needed. Jeff Hyland who designed the amphitheater is willing to do some of this. He would be willing to share duties with Kip Kaiser if Kip is available to help. Project management could add as much as \$10,000 to the project.

b: The Library is taking reservations for the Braver Angels program that will be held August 31, 2023 from 6-8:30 PM. The goal of the program is to help bridge the partisan divide between blue and red voters and strengthen our democracy.

C: Safety fencing was installed around the decaying amphitheater, Liz McConnell paid for this and will be reimbursed by the town. Cost for the fence rental was \$2600.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trustees discussed the need for a public hearing regarding the acceptance of donations over \$5000. Trustees agreed that this public hearing can occur during a regular meeting.

Trustees viewed samples of paver stones that may be used in the amphitheater project.

Liz adjourned the meeting at 7:24 PM.

Next meeting: Monday, September 11, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Walker - Board Secretary