

Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

7:30 a.m. ZOOM Meeting

Present: Patricia Gautier, Katie Boss, Liza Dimitri, Nicole Rancourt, Lisa Cesare, Doris Bonneau, Susan Weiss, Michael Malloy, Dan Hargreaves, Heidi McCurdy, Alfreda Fournier, Mamie Anthoine Ney, Director, Haley Warden, Adm. Assistant, Darby Ray, LPL.

1. Call to Order/Introductions: The online meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m. We all chatted briefly about which books we are currently reading.
2. Approval of the October 2020 Board Minutes were passed after a motion by Alfreda and seconded by Doris.
3. Governance: Approve Lisa Trafton as Treasurer. After a brief discussion, we decided as a group that this had already been taken care of, and we moved to the next topic.
4. Auction/Covid Recovery Team Update: Thank you notes have been sent to the sponsors and businesses that have donated to the library in June of this year to help make up from the lost revenue due to the canceled silent auction. They were also sent to the people who responded to our Covid-19 Relief Fund. The auction committee decided to put baskets together to raffle off on Giving Tuesday. Nicole also discussed how the silent auction is not receiving the return on investment that it should, given the amount of time involved as well as all of the other local non-profits that have silent auctions during the year.

Thus, the committee decided to move to a different idea, which they will discuss further at a meeting on November 30th. Nicole gave a brief overview of the concept she learned about from a friend in Gardiner. Local businesses in that area donated some items as well purchasing some other bigger ticket items. All of them were put into an insulated bag and then only a certain number of the bags were sold. We are planning on selling 100 bags and will be looking at what will go into that bag at the November 30th meeting. We will look for sponsors for the items that we will have to buy. We will also use this opportunity to highlight APL summer programs and calendar of events.

Another fundraising idea was to bring back the Antique Evaluation Day. Former employee John Kelly had organized this in the past and will be contacted to see if we can do this fun activity again next year.

5. Giving Tuesday: Haley has been publishing teaser introductions on Instagram and Facebook to get the word out regarding Giving Tuesday which will be December 2, 2020. She has been using individual library users reflections on how libraries impacted them. There will be a Facebook donation process as well as one on our website. Donations of \$20 or more will generate \$5 towards food for the food insecure in our community. Haley discussed the raffle baskets as well. (These have been postponed until 2021 because the Library is going to Curbside pick-up only on December 2nd because of the rising Covid-19 cases in Androscoggin County.)
6. Director of Engagement Search: There were 6 applicants and Mamie is interviewing the top three candidates.
7. Fines Update: Pat, Mamie and members of the LPL board met with the PPL (Portland Public Library) to discuss eliminating library fines. Most board members agreed it would be a positive thing to eliminate fines along with LPL. But we need to figure out how to recoup the lost revenue. City Councilor Katie Boss will speak with Phil Crowell about increasing funds from the City as it fits well with his equity initiative. Fines keep poor children out of the library even when books are returned; if their parents' fines are still outstanding their borrowing privileges are not reinstated. Mamie was asked to write a first draft of new borrowing practices and procedures for Katie to use when she talks to Phil Crowell. Mamie is currently starting to work on the upcoming budget and will need his response.
8. Director's Report: Mamie discussed her continued concern surrounding COVID and how the cases in the area continue to rise in the colder months. She mentioned that Brunswick library has started using curbside pick up and that Auburn would possibly return to this service as well and close the library for in-person visits. Mamie also stated that the number of patrons have continued to decrease in the past month. Mamie said that the computers in the media lab need to be replaced and she will use the remaining funds from when it was put in.
9. The Maine Community Foundation needs to report to the Board once a year. Mamie will set their presentation up for April after the first quarter of 2021. It can be done over Zoom if that is still necessary.

*There is no Board meeting in December but we agreed to send in baked goods or other items to the staff to show the Board's appreciation.

*Alfreda made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 am and Lisa Cesare seconded it. Motion was passed.

*Next Meeting: January 19, 2021 Happy Holidays to everyone!