

Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

7:30 a.m. ZOOM Meeting

Present: Patricia Gautier, Liza Dimitri, Nicole Rancourt, Lisa Cesare, Lisa Trafton, Doris Bonneau, Susan Weiss, Dan Hargreaves, Heidi McCurdy, Alfreda Fournier, Mamie Anthoine Ney, Director, Haley Warden, Adm. Assistant, Mariah Pfeffier, LPL.

1. Call to Order/Introductions: The online meeting was called to order at 7:34 a.m.
2. Approval of the November 2020 Board Minutes were passed after a motion by Liza and seconded by Alfreda.
3. "Fun" Raising Committee Update: Nicole gave an explanation of the new fundraising campaign "Book It Around Town" bags which will highlight APL and local businesses. The bags will be sold later this spring/early summer. The committee decided to do a project similar to Gardner's Swine and Stein brew bags that were done last spring. Phase 1 begins now after Haley sends out sponsor letters requesting businesses to participate by choosing levels of sponsorship to help us underwrite this project. Nicole introduced the list of 60 potential sponsors and Board members took turns trading names of companies. Starting February 1st, each board member will be following up with phone calls to designated businesses. Nicole went over the documents that will be used, letters and follow-up conversations. At the February board meeting, we will report out on our phone calls to potential sponsors. Phase 2 will include requesting donations of items and/or coupons from some businesses that we will include in the "Book It Around Town" bags. . We will sell bags starting June 1st through the 10th and people will pick up the bags June 16th through the 20th.
4. Director's Report & Reflection on Covid-19: Mamie reported that the library is closed to the public although there is curbside pickup for patrons to get their books. Patrons may make appointments to use the computers and that is the only thing patrons are entering the library for. She does not anticipate the library opening up anytime soon due to the new covid-19 virus variants that are popping up around the country and world. She also discussed a library donation of stocks from New England Retirement Solutions. We need to set up an account with BGA Financial (Steve Caron) so the stocks can be sold and the cash put into a new endowment. A motion by Alfreda and seconded by Doris was approved to allow the establishment of an account with BGA Financial with Mamie, Pat, and Lisa T. having authority over the account.
5. Director of Engagement Update: Mamie discussed that there were two people that were up for this position, but neither of them ended up working out. So now, we are back at square one.

6. Governance Committee: Trustee Duties: Susan went over the document for trustees duties and responsibilities. There are 11 items and she read off each of them. She suggested that we each read over them in more detail and do some self-reflection. Do you think that you are meeting your board trustee responsibilities?

7. Fines Discussion Update/Proposed Budget : Katie was not at the meeting but we were told that she spoke with Phil Crowell regarding equity in the library and the community. It seems as though a \$25,000 line item will be added to APL's FY 2021 budget which will help us make up the cost of eliminating fines. Lewiston Public Library voted in December to eliminate fines. Liza made a motion seconded by Nicole that we eliminate fines starting July 1st, 2022. It passed. We won't know until June if the City Council approves the budget as presented. If not we will have to find the money through cuts.

8. Director's Evaluation Update & Survey: Pat talked about the work being done by the Governance Committee to get the Survey completed for the Director's evaluation. Alfreda will take the Survey to Human Resources at Auburn Hall so we can see the first draft by the February meeting. It will go out to Board members and the Staff in March. We discussed the open ended questions to be used in the survey. The Board decided we should limit the number of questions to 3 and place them at the end of the survey. Further discussion of the Survey will be on the February agenda.

9. LPL report: Mariah Pfeiffer reported that they have eliminated their fines. They're still working with an NEH Grant that was extended through April 30th of this year. They have been able to send books to all 5,000+ Lewiston students (many in translations of the languages spoken in the home). This is something that the Lewiston library has never been able to do before, due to budget restrictions. COVID has provided some silver linings for LPL as they have been able to rearrange the physical space of the library in order to make it more efficient and more COVID friendly in the future when the library reopens. She also spoke about a recently completed story walk. Mamie mentioned that APL is sponsoring Story Boards for Winterfest in late January. Haley has done some beautiful ones on the Riverwalk using her Mother's photos.

10. What have you been reading? We all chatted briefly about which books we are currently reading.

Next Meeting: February 16, 2021