



Library Committee Meeting
Minutes
April 26, 2022 – 7:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Attended

Committee: Krysten Morganti (Chair), Sara Pacelle, Tara Edelman, Lindsay Howard, Laura Klein, Mary-Wren vanderWilden

Also in Attendance: Emily Smith (Library Director), Dorrie Karlin (Fowler Branch Librarian)

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Krysten called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM and took attendance. The committee reviewed minutes from March 15, 2022 and voted unanimously to approve them.

Library Director's Report

Emily's report included the following updates:

- 63 % of budget expended and right on track financially
- Emily was featured in Discover Concord magazine; Curator Anke Voss wrote another article about the art collection. Photos of art collection are now available online.
- Balcony project continuing in the rotunda.
- Children's programs sky rocketing. Having to offer 2nd story time. Puppet shows getting 70-80+ people!
- Small antique doll house is being remodeled – cleaned and fresh paint with Victorian theme. Treasure hunt to find things in the doll house.
- Debuting the large print collection near circulation desk
- Al Rodriguez and his son, Daniel, are leaving at the end of this month as well as longtime page, Jamie Williams
- Cary Stough who was recently promoted to Staff Librarian in Teen Services, is working on new programs and designing the space
- New Library Assistant, Jessica Randazzo.
- Hiring continuing for 8 vacancies

New Business

Main Library Hours

Goal to return to hours before pandemic. Emily is recommending extending hours to 8pm during the week and shortening one hour on Friday to close at 5 pm at Main Library. Hoping to open on Sundays in the fall.

Committee discussed study hours for high school exam week. Emily will follow up with Cary about this and look into putting study hours in CCHS Bulletin. The committee decided setting hours was operational and didn't need a vote. Change will take place on Monday, May 2, 2022.

Study Room Policy

We have a best practice policy, but would like formal, written policy that documents the Library Study Room Policy.

Committee discussed the policy as outlined by Emily. Emily clarified that study rooms cannot be used for commercial purposes with one exception: fee-based tutoring.

The Committee anonymously approved the policy as presented by Emily.

Drives and Collections at the Library

The Library has had several groups want to do drives and collections at the Library. Emily noted that our mission focuses on education. We already have ongoing collection for books for Friends of the Concord Library. We have limited space. Emily seeking guidance on whether we need a policy or whether we should participate at all.

The Committee discussed the benefits and difficulties of drives and collections. It was noted that the library is central place and having drives that focus on supporting the library's mission as a place for learning would be appropriate. It was noted that a time limit should be considered.

The Committee decided that Emily would do some research to see what other libraries do and other policies that town agencies have in place and draft something for the Committee to review in May.

Corporation is revisiting updating the sign policy to formalize number and type of signs allowed on library lawn.

Recruiting Members of Library Committee

Tara (after 2 terms) and Sue (after 1 term) rolling off committee this year. Mary-Wren will roll onto the committee from associate member to regular member. Need to recruit new members.

Krysten shared a list from the Town of people who might be interested in joining the Library Committee. Krysten will reach out to a few from the list and invite them to attend May meeting if interested so that new members could start in September. Krysten and Emily will put a blurb in Library Newsletter about becoming a member.

If committee members know of someone interested, interested people should go to townhouse and fill out volunteer form.

Presentation of Fowler Branch Library

Dorrie shared slideshow presentation. Since she started in Fall 2020 goal to make Fowler community center by creating spaces, programs and events. Dorrie credits the dedicated and talented staff for making everything succeed. Fowler has been working to connect people through displays and social media, quilt and art, swaps and nontraditional materials. Dorrie shared dozens of programs that have brought people to Fowler for the past year and a half.

Old Business

Committee discussed whether to meet in person or continue with zoom. No concerns about keeping library open and although some members will continue to wear masks indoors, there was no objection to meeting in person. Committee discussed having Zoom as an option, especially in the summer.

Next Meeting

In person meeting on May 17, 2022 at 7pm. Maybe meet on Zoom for June and July. Following meetings are June 21 and July 19. In June we will discuss whether we need to meet in July and August.

All members voted to adjourn at 8:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mary-Wren vanderWilden
April 26, 2022