

Taft Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes 02/09/2022

Members Present : Ellen Agro, Wayne Phipps, Shana Miller, Sean Nicholson, Sharon Lutrell & Alison Chu

Staff Present: Andrew Jenrich & Tara Windsor

Friends of Taft Library member: Lisa Micheal

Meeting called to Order @ 6:00 pm by Ellen Agro

1. Motion to accept minutes from 1/12/2022 by Wayne Phipps, seconded by Sean Nicholson. Passed unanimously.
2. Friends Update- Lisa Michael

Programs and Fundraisers coming up- Seeds and Flower Power will be in the spring. Friends hosting another crafting for gifts for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Another take and make plant. Looking into Go Go Goat for knot weed as well as two spring clean ups. Looking into a Facebook 6 word Poems/Story with a possible prize. Will have the Book Sale in the summer with Town wide yard sale. Friends has more members than ever.

3. Director's Report presented by Andrew Jenrich

Staff- New employee Brenda is doing well. Lots of upcoming vacation plans are between April and June with some overlap late May into June.

Mandate on masks? Blackstone has a couple of mandates per town. Started mandate in the library at 9% or 10%. Current rate in 14%. Mask mandate will come down in 2/28/2022 to follow along with DESE guidelines.

Facilities- No word from Superior Roofing on a start date. Weather has been a factor. They have cashed check according to the Friends.

Lt. Craig Burnham stopped over and did a safety inspection. He was very thorough and pointed out one area of concern in the front Mechanical Room. We have cleared it of all boxes and anything else deemed combustible. With this loss of storage space we need to find a solution going forward for book and audiovisual discards.

Chief Kessler stopped by the week after Lt. Burnham to discuss a generator and defibrillators. The Mechanical Room has 3 phase electrical so a generator would cost between \$20K-\$60K. As far as AED the Chief said the library would only need one. The Friends of the Library will pay for the AED as they received a donation specifically for an AED.

Worldband finished installation of tech set up for hybrid meetings downstairs. It is a wireless system. Tara, Ellen, Monika and Andrew will be learning how to use it this week.

Victory conducted semiannual maintenance on the HVAC system. Community Fire & Police Equipment also did its annual check of fire extinguishers.

Budget-Meeting with Select board and Finance 2/2/2022 for the FY2023 Taft Library budget scenario. One budget scenario presented increased open hours and would be welcomed after a twelve year wait. Both the Select board and Finance Committee seemed receptive to it. The Town Budget is likely to change many times before it is finalized.

Programs-Only \$143.40 was spent on programming this month. The first week of Programming was almost entirely virtual. In person children's programs are masks required and will be so going through February. All adult programs will follow mask guidelines before the mandate went into effect. We will strongly encourage the use of masks by everyone during in-person programs. Adult Book club had 13, Alphabet Storytime -4 sessions averaging 7 kids and 5 adults, Itty Bitty Storytime-1 session averaging 6 children and 4 adults, Story & Craft time-4 sessions averaging 7 kids and 6 adults, Monster Mayhem-3 sessions averaging 10 kids and 8 adults, Footnotes Nonfiction-13 adults, Cooking with Chef Rob 26 adults, Jill Vetstein Parenting Workshop had 16 adults, Nipmuc Teen Book Club had 9 teens,

Spark Joy Webinar had 7 adults, Conversations in German had 4 adults.

Projects- Annie Romano and staff are working downstairs finishing a shift of the Adult nonfiction section hopefully creating more room for the Adult fiction collection.

Hotspots are now available for checkout. They were distributed by the MBLC, funded by the Institute of Museum & Library Services through the first year as part of the American Rescue Plan Act. Hotspots can be checked out by anyone 17 years or older with a valid C/W MARS card for two weeks with no renewals.

Town News-Andrew met with the Select Board in Executive Session to go over his contract. There are no issues with the contract. Andrew completed and submitted the 2021 Annual Town Report for the Taft Public Library to the Select Board Secretary.

Local resident Sue Ruggiero is confirmed for the Strategic Planning Committee. Naomi Vogt of Custom Home Realty is very interested in being a part of the group.

Regional News-Legislative breakfast at Worcester library March 11th in person.

5. Strategic Planning- Three Meeting process. Will reach out to schedule with facilitator.

6. Next meeting set for March 9th 2022.

7. 7:00 pm Motion to adjourn by Wayne Phipps, and Sean seconded motion.