

Concord Free Public Library
Library Committee Meeting Minutes
21 January 2020

Committee members present: Mav Pardee, Tara Edelman, Kerry Cronin, Krysten Morganti, Pat Nelson, Dennis Fiori

Guests: Sherry Litwack (President, Library Trustees), Anne Irza-Leggat (President, Friends of CFPL), Brian Taylor (Finance committee), members of the public

Sherry Litwack: update on appeals to library expansion project.

The town of Concord is trying to come to agreement with plaintiffs to avoid going to court. One meeting with lawyers has already occurred, and specific list of demands analyzed. Trustees were able to address almost every item. Next meeting with lawyers and plaintiffs scheduled February.

Update on state grant - \$200,000 awarded before appeal was filed (by the Massachusetts Cultural Council). One condition is contingent on project approval from Massachusetts Historical Commission, who were contacted directly by plaintiffs. In response, MHC is refusing project approval, which stymies the grant. Trustees have requested a meeting and site visit from MHC. If MHC requires starting the design process from scratch, trustees will likely decide to withdraw grant application, and the shortage will have to be made up through other fundraising efforts.

Update about fundraising campaign: over \$9.3 million has been raised so far. Goal was met to raise \$1 million from community phase of fundraising launched in fall, representing over 1,000 community donors so far. Costs of the project will rise due to delay to the project start because of the appeals, possibly \$1 million or more.

Anne Irza-Leggat: art gallery schedule 2020 and jury process

The job of managing the main library art gallery schedule is open to any Library Committee member interested; Anne is willing to continue doing it but would be happy to return the job to the Committee. Commitment level is varied depending on amount of art submitted at any given time. Next art jury takes place Thursday, 23 January at 7:00 PM in Special Collections area of library. Art gallery schedule is current filled out to May 2020.

Minutes for April 2019 approved.

Minutes for November 2019 tabled until next meeting.

Discussion of WiFi-free Zones in Library Expansion Project

Committee's role is to provide recommendations to trustees regarding adjustments to the project in light of information about wireless signal exposure danger. After brief discussion, the Library Committee expressed to Trustees through Sherry that we do wish for considerations to be incorporated into the planning and building phases of the expansion.

Public comment: conservative approach about child safety is always appropriate, and easiest to address during the building phase by installing hardwired resources to keep options open later. Many resources are available to provide guidance about choices of equipment to minimize wireless exposure in public spaces.

Kerry Cronin: Macmillan's Policy Change about eBook Purchases.

Macmillan has changed their policy about e-books, how many licenses libraries can purchase when an e-book is first released, and how those licenses may be shared between libraries. It generally restricts the ability for libraries to purchase enough e-book copies to meet their needs when a title is newly available.

Minuteman library network met to discuss new policy, and chose not to boycott Macmillan, but to only purchase centrally rather than having local libraries buy additional copies to meet their needs. If this model becomes a norm for publishers, it pushes public libraries out of the e-book market. The Minuteman network plans to reconvene to discuss this national issue further. Some branches wish to take steps to send a stronger message to Macmillan about the impact of their policy change.

Kerry Cronin: Circulation Policy

Several updates to the circulation policy were made, and the addition of a new policy about "speed-read" DVDs. Information about the homebound services was also added. Changes were approved unanimously.

Kerry Cronin: Long-range Planning Update

Jay Vogt provided a draft of long-range plan based on information gathered in June 2019 session. There was some discussion about whether to include Core Values as defined by the ALA or write a core values statement specific to Concord. The decision was made to revise information specific to the expansion project, given current state of appeals process.

Kerry Cronin: Director's Report and Financial Report

Highlights: Curator Anke Voss' welcome reception, Children's Librarian Karen Ahearn's retirement reception, Little Women-related events, Food for Fines program is March 23-29th this year, and there is discussion with the town manager about making this collaboration with Open Table Food Pantry a permanent alternative to paying library fines in cash.

Documents distributed

- Meeting agenda
- Director reports and fiscal reports
- Draft of minutes from 16 April 2019
- Draft of minutes from 19 November 2019
- Draft of art gallery schedule for 2020
- Draft of updated circulation policy
- Article from Public Libraries (Vol. 58 No. 6) about MacMillan's restrictions of e-book licenses
- Draft of long-range plan

Agenda item for next month: discussion of how to address outreach to underserved populations in the long-range plan.

Next Meeting: 18 February 2020

Minutes submitted by Krysten Morganti