

Goodnow Library Board of Trustees

Minutes

Tuesday, June 4, 2019, 2019, 6:30 p.m.

Historical Room, Goodnow Library, 21 Concord Road

Attendance: Alan Gordon (v. ch.), Lily Gordon, Esmé Green (sec), Ingrid Mayyasi, Barbara Pryor, Marie Royea (ch.), Beth Whitlock

Absent: none

Call to order and vote to approve minutes of the May 7, 2019: Marie called the meeting to order at 6:38, and made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Alan. So voted.

Election of officers (motion to move to first item on the agenda): Esmé asked for a motion to move this item to the first on the agenda. Lily/Barbara. So moved. Marie made a motion to accept the slate of officers, being Alan, chair and Ingrid, vice-chair. Seconded by Barbara. So voted (unanimous).

Director's Report:

Financial Report: this is the last report of the current fiscal year. Most lines are at or close to zeroes out. There is approximately \$800 left in Automation, which will be used to purchase three Chromebooks for the Children's department.

Personnel report: with the vacancy in the Teen librarian position, we will have Ferrell, one of our substitute assistants work in the NOW Lab during the summer to run programs for tweens and teens. We also have a part-time vacancy coming up due to the resignation of Elaine Mead. She has been working in Children's and as a nighttime rover. We will be able to get through the very busy summer, and recruit a Teen librarian in August.

Board photos: tabled to September meeting.

Trustee Report:

Friends: Barbara recused herself from this discussion, as she is also on the Foundation Board and wanted to avoid a conflict or appearance of a conflict of interest.

Esmé and Alan attended the May Friends meeting. Esmé addressed the lack of access to the treasurer's report. Members of the Friends board defended the position of not sharing its financial information. Esmé objected, stating that other boards she served on freely shared documentation, and that as library director she is entitled to the information of supporting groups. Alan stated that he was attending the meeting to build a stronger relationship with the Friends, learn more about their organization and share information between the trustees and the Friends. Esmé also met with the town manager to discuss the lack of transparency, among other issues, and discuss ways to improve the situation.

The board discussed ideas for a path forward. It was determined that the chair and vice-chair of the trustees meet with the Friends president and vice president to hear

their concerns, as they had done with the Foundation. Esmé and Alan would communicate with the town manager, with the goal of meeting as a group and agreeing on a suitable path forward.

Foundation Report:

The GLF received a \$13K grant from the Middlesex Charitable Foundation to be used for operations (preparing the annual report, marketing, pulling data from the donor database, staff training, etc.)

The net profit from the gala (Sat night) was \$25K, and 126 people attended. This is down \$3K from last year.

Old/New business:

Town Meeting: Library, Article 33: this article to digitize the library's local newspapers on microfilm passed. Work will begin after the start of the new fiscal year.

Master plan: Esmé was interviewed by the consultant working on the plan about the library.

Any other items not known 48 hours in advance of the meeting: Esmé announced that at its annual meeting in May, she was sworn in as president of the MA Library Association.

Adjournment: Alan made a motion to adjourn at 8:08 pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 3, 2019