

Pierson Library Board of Trustees
October 21, 2021. 6:30pm

Attendees: Kevin Unrath (Director). Trustees: Lisa Merrill, Charlotte Albers, Becky Jewett, Alice Brown, Alex Nalbach, Holly Brough. Student member: Eliza Brooks

Call to Order 6:30pm. Becky joined meeting at 6:35, Holly joined at 6:48pm.

Approval of Agenda

Charlotte moved to approve agenda, Alice seconded; all voted in favor.

No public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Alice made a motion to approve the minutes from 9/16, Holly seconded; all voted in favor.

Treasurer's Report

Alex presented the report showing recent activity. Alice made a motion to approve payment of \$440.36 to The Scoop for the ice cream truck at August Open House, Becky seconded; all voted in favor.

Director Update

Library has improved its in-library usage statistics for September with circulation of physical materials and e-books high. Budget is on target to spend down. Looking for a 10-hour per week person to help with shelving, ideally a high school student. Becky made a motion to hire a circulation assistant in November going through the current fiscal year, Holly seconded; all voted in favor.

Current Poet Laureate Rick Bessette's term ends in April 2022 however looking for a replacement now and suggests Rob Broder who is a published author and part-time poet. Alice made a motion to recommend Rob Broder for Selectboard approval, Becky seconded; all voted in favor.

The ARPA Funds from the Vermont Dept. of Libraries will be released soon. Pierson qualified for nearly \$12,000 in funds which we plan to spend on collections, two polywood picnic tables for the front lawn, and two umbrellas and stands for the patio area. Several other building enhancements have occurred notably cushions and a new bench in south foyer.

The draft budget was presented to the Selectboard for initial budget review.

A RFP for a new website was written by Holly, Alice and Lisa and will go out soon. The current website was done to coincide with the new library opening in 2019 and was done by Patty Bliss on a WordPress template. Charlotte making contacts with photographers.

Programming with COVID – Becky recommends building a framework for new programs now to be ready for normal operations once Covid recedes. Stick to the top four topics identified in the library’s survey: engage and empower young Vermonters; civility and democratic decision making; diversity and equity; and environmental issues. A special meeting to review potential program tracks using volunteer facilitators is the next step.

A serious medical issue involving hospitalization has occurred with the couple who clean the library. Kevin is asking board to consider making a donation to the family. Becky made a motion to give \$1,000, Alice seconded; all voted in favor. Kevin will give the family our gift with our best wishes. Meanwhile cleaning twice a week continues on schedule.

Building enhancements – Holly, Alex, and Charlotte will meet to decide about painted wall direction signs. Holly has comments from board and has researched signage at area libraries for comparison. Kevin has quotes coming for door fire releases. Alex will contact Fritz Horton about the Town Hall curtains and generously offers to help cover the cost.

Giving Tuesday 2021 – board would like to do it again this year. Becky made a motion to spend up to \$1,000 to print and distribute flyers, Alice seconded; all voted in favor. Becky, Lisa, and Holly will work on creating a flyer and coordinating the insert with The Shelburne News.

Trustee Opening

After over four years of service John Boscia is stepping down. Charlotte made a motion recommending Lisa reach out to the top alternate from the most recent round of interviews and invite her to the November board meeting, Alex seconded; Lisa, Charlotte, Alex, and Becky approved; Alice and Holly abstained.

Next meeting is November 18th at 6:30pm.

Becky moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm, Holly seconded; all voted in favor.