

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTES
September 16, 2020

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
610 Main St., Fitchburg MA

Trustees present were: Chair Jim Walsh, Robert Favini, Mary Rice Hurley, Cynthia Jones, Jacalyn Kremer, and Michael Phaneuf. Others present were Director Sharon Bernard and Assistant Director Jean Tenander as well as City Councilor Samantha Squailia.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the July 8, 2020, meeting were unanimously approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Walsh said the MBLC had postponed all financial decisions for a year. As of yet they do not know what the budget will be.

He thanked Director Bernard and the staff for organizing Curbside Pickup. It has been going for 13 weeks and is very successful.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Director Bernard reported that Library is also providing faxing, copying and remote printing. An online application form has been created which allows people to sign up for a new card on line. Applicants must bring a picture id when they come to pick up the card. She said opening to the public for limited computer use is under discussion but since it will be taking place simultaneously with Curbside Pickup it will require more staff to be scheduled.

She urged the Trustees to check out the new mural on the wall of the building facing the parking lot. Monique Guthrie was successful in her application to the City for CDBG funds to paint the mural.

Jacalyn Kremer asked where the biggest drop in circulation was. The Director said it was in adult circulation. The state's Commonwealth Catalog, ComCat, will resume on Sept. 21. This allows patrons to ILL items outside CWMARS.

Director Bernard mentioned some upcoming programs. She was asked if she had been able to fill the Young Adult position and she said no.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee- Michael Phaneuf distributed the reports from First Financial. He said things were fluctuating but Jim Hohman liked the current distribution between stocks and bonds.

Legislative Committee-The Director asked Rob Favini if he knew what would happen if the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners could not meet the financial requirements for the libraries on the New Building list. He said nothing had been worked out yet. If a library on the list has not obtained enough money from other sources to complete the project when the grant is offered to them they are off the list and have to reapply for the next grant round. FPL is currently number 11 on the waitlist.

Mary Rice Hurley asked if FPL's project could be scaled down to be more affordable. The grant application required a plan for a library for the next 20 years. Changing that plan would go against the statute.

She said the first two projects on the waitlist are East Bridgewater and Amherst who has the largest project on the list. If Amherst cannot accept the grant it is likely that Fitchburg's award will be offered sooner than expected. The MBLC has to spend the money as the bond has been accepted. She said it was good we were not at the top of the list as the city is not in a situation to accept the award this year.

Rob Favini said there some federal monies available but were hard to obtain and may create a conflict with other federal funds.

Nominating Committee-Rob Favini said he had put out a call to see if anyone wanted to change the current slate of officers and no one did. He moved that the Trustees accept the current slate: Jim Walsh Chair, Cynthia Jones Secretary, and Michael Phaneuf Treasurer. The vote by the Trustees present was unanimous to accept the current slate of officers. Those present were Jim Walsh, Robert Favini, Mary Rice Hurley, Cynthia Jones, Jacalyn Kremer and Michael Phaneuf.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Bernard asked the Trustees to add January 2 as a closed date for the holiday hours. The vote was unanimous. At a previous Board Meeting the Trustees had voted these closures or early closures:

Saturday of Labor Day—Closed
Thanksgiving—Close at 3:00 on Wednesday
Christmas Eve—Close at 2:00
Day after Christmas—Closed
New Year's Eve—Close at 3:00

The Director asked the Trustees to vote for the FY21 Trust Fund budget. Cynthia Jones moved to accept the FY21 Trust Fund budget. The motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Director Bernard outlined two grant possibilities that the library will submit. One is the restoration/conservation of the Rodney Wallace portrait and frame and the marble statue gifted by Herbert I Wallace. The other is to hire an archivist to organize the Willis Room and to create a plan to digitize the historical files and the Sentinel microfilm.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7.36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
by Jean Tenander
for Cynthia Jones