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MANSFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting - March 9, 2022

Attendance: Nancy Breef-Pilz, Jean Mallon, Deborah Gordy, Kimberly Usselman, Leonard Epstein and Director Catherine Coyne. Nancy called the meeting to order at 4:35 PM 1:55

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Secretary's report. The report for February was reviewed and unanimously approved as corrected, with Debbie and Kimberly abstaining.

Treasurer's report. No treasurer's report was available yet because of Marianne's departure from the board.

Correspondence. None.

Librarians reports. The librarians' reports were reviewed and highlights discussed.

OLD BUSINESS

Director's goals. Catherine has developed a questionnaire for patrons' input concerning the library.

Home-bound delivery service. The library's substitute employees have expressed interest in participating which will include deliveries to and pickups from home-bound patrons. Catherine will be working out the details and scheduling. Both of the library's current subs have done this in other places. They will need to be paid for all such tasks in order to be covered by the Town's liability insurance. The service will start once a month.

Overdue materials fines. Kimberly noted that most libraries (including Norton) are now fine-free because of access issues and feels Mansfield should be moving in that direction. The board tabled the issue for discussion at future meetings, speculating about possible implementation in late summer or early autumn.

Library of things. Catherine reported that the concept has been well-received and several patrons' suggestions have prompted several acquisitions including: telescope; microscope; paper shredder; laminator; slide and film converter; and pomp-pom maker. Video games are popular as are cake pans. The library had to purchase a separate power supply for the keyboard now available. Items circulate for two weeks and are renewable. Some things haven't yet proven popular, e.g. decorative scissors for scrapbooking.

Physical plant. A more accessible toilet has been installed in the staff restroom, a so-called "high boy."

Security. Kevin Dumas has suggested to Nancy that Catherine should put together a list of concerns and suggestions. The situation has been somewhat in limbo because the Town prefers a universal system.

Memory activities. The library has been acquiring items to help people with memory difficulties. She will make it a point to inform management at Willow Crossing.

NEW BUSINESS

New board members. Catherine and Nancy talked about some of the routines of library operations, e.g. bill payment warrants and signature requirements (normally three but reduced to two during the summer).

The new board members spoke a little about their backgrounds. Debbie Gordy has been a life-long resident of Mansfield, noting that she has seen the town's population grow from 7,000 to 26,000 people. She suspended working for ten years, caring for her young children, then returned to human resources, working in a senior capacity at General Electric. Kimberly Usselman was the library director in Putnam, Ct. until mid November. She was head of Children's Services for seven years in Rhode Island and she is a past president of the Rhode Island Library Association. Both new trustees have strong histories in volunteerism.

The remaining trustees reciprocated with brief introductions of themselves.

Staff development day. Catherine has scheduled a staff development day on April 5 from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. It will focus on library security with assistance from the Mansfield Police.

Reorganization of the board. Nancy noted that it has been several years since the board has been reorganized, adding that the new members should have some time to acclimate themselves before being asked to manage specific responsibilities. Nancy nominated Jean Mallon to take over as chair and agreed to handle the treasurer's duties, at least on an interim basis. The undersigned agreed to continue as secretary for now. It was moved, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the slate of officers.

Next meeting. April 20, 4:30 PM (tentative). Remaining meetings prior to the summer break will be May 11 and June 8. The meeting was adjourned at 7:08 PM.

Leonard Epstein

Leonard Epstein, Secretary

The foregoing minutes were approved at the April 14 meeting of the Mansfield Board of Library Trustees.