

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Minutes

Monday, January 4, 2021

6:00 PM

Virtual Meeting vis Zoom

In Attendance: Jeremy Clemans, Chris Casco, Ray Conner, the Library Director-Todd Fabian, Becky Herrmann, Norman Kinsler, Michelle Marino, Charles O'Leary, Lisa Sands, Ali Sekou

- Call to Order: B. Herrmann calls the meeting to order 6:04 pm
- Library Director reads COVID-19 Executive Order 2020-04
- Introductions to newest member Ali, Ali introduction himself to Board
- R. Conner moves to accept the minutes of November 2, 2020, monthly meeting, N. Kinsler seconds.
- Library Director's Report
 - Quite a few changes to library services:
 - In December the number of patrons in the building was almost capped out. Pulling back to curb-side service only was the safest decision. The move to curbside was made during the week of Christmas. No patrons can physically be in the building at this point.
 - Up to about 100 patron bundles picked up each day and it continues to rise.
 - The public and patrons have been supportive and cooperative with this curbside model. There is no defined date yet as to when we will go back to allowing patrons in the building.
 - We are doing more take and make crafts. These items can be picked up at the library just like a book or another item that is to be checked out.
 - Installed a new outdoor double return bin in order to support staff and bin safety. The bin is located on Prince Street, on the same side as the library, where patrons can park and walk or get out of their car to drop off items in the bin. The old bin has been removed but it is being saved for possible future use.
 - Staffing
 - New Youth Service coordinator - starts in 2 weeks. They are in state, in quarantine and waiting to start.
 - Monthly focus on staff members in library newsletter
 - Future focus on Library Trustees in the newsletter
 - Old Business
 - R. Conner update on Trustee survey - well-educated board, represent most areas/districts on Concord. Will put together a more detailed analysis and discuss recommendations at the next meeting.
 - How can we build relations in the community and be advocates for the library?
 - How can we be more visible at library events?
 - What role does the Library Director want us to have focused around his new strategic plan?
- Recap of the meeting with the City Manager
 - How the city funds their projects

- What can we do to move the library project forward - we can make sure the city council realizes how much the library fits in to the overall benefit of the community
 - The Director said he is getting questions from the public regarding the new library, so there is interest.
 - Putting library statistics into manageable informational bits to show relevance in the community to frame how important we are as a resource.
 - Think about being larger than a library - a true community center - think of ways to promote multi use center
 - Independent fundraising is important to support the project vs a completely city-funded project
 - As the library opened up to the public during COVID times, the CPL had a large number of patrons physically coming out to use resources. We need to make that known around town, also in comparison to what other cities experienced in patron traffic during COVID. The services offered by CPL are abundant especially in relation to how the CPL is not funded at the same rate as other city libraries.
 - Think about what is lacking in Concord in terms of community resources that the new library can offer
 - Focus on the flexibility of the new age space - show the council and the community of what a library can be
 - Think large - combine auditorium, gymnasium, indoor track, library, etc. Get multiple interest groups involved and get more people on board.
 - Also get the community excited about a new library and show them that libraries are good things for communities. As a community member, if you do not use the library, why not? Is their idea of what a library is today out of date?
 - What do we define a community center to be? What is missing in the community?
 - Diversity initiatives – In Librarianship- discussions, trainings and conversations on diversity continue to be at the forefront.
- New Business
 - Foundation Update - did not meet last month
 - B. Herrmann and A. Sekou regularly attend Foundation meetings.
 - Public Comments
 - None
 - Next meeting: February 1, 2021
 - R. Conner motions to adjourn at 7:35 pm, C. Casco seconds the motion.