



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Todd Fabian, Library Director
DATE: October 4, 2018
SUBJECT: Grant award through the Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust

Recommendation

Set the attached resolution appropriating grant funds from the Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust for \$15,000, to support the purchase of a new main circulation & information desk for the Concord Public Library, for a public hearing to be held on November 13, 2018.

Background

The Alice J. Reen Charitable Trust was funded on January 1, 1998, upon Alice Reen's death, with \$1,600,000. The trust is held by the Charter Trust Company of Concord, NH. Seven charities were designated by Alice J. Reen, including the Concord Public Library. The following aspects of Alice's life and personal interests were the basis of her selection criteria in choosing the seven charitable beneficiaries for her Trust, and form the guidelines upon which the trustees base their decisions: Catholic Faith; Innovative educator; teaching English to high school students; Well-read book collector; Member of the Stratford club, which studies Shakespeare and meets at the Concord Public Library; World Traveler; Music appreciator; Talented bridge player; Lover of birds and animals; Lost members of her family to cancer and heart disease.

Discussion

Based on regional market projections, we expect the cost of a new circulation & information desk to be more than \$15,000 and have set aside addition funds of \$15,000 from our miscellaneous special revenue fund: book sale revenue. In these are not enough funds, we also have been working with the Concord Library Foundation to cover any overages.

The main current circulation desk at the Library was installed in the early 1980's. Technology and Library services have evolved significantly in that time and the current setup limits staff efficiencies, is uncomfortable for patron interaction, and has an inflexible design. The current setup was actually designed before computers were even utilized in Libraries and over the years the Library staff and growing city IT staff have tried to repurpose the technology around the design on countless occasions. Another issue with the current design is the orientation of critical items like the book drop, the height of storage areas, and the lack of a flat counter for patrons and staff to interact. We hope to design and install a more modern and forward thinking design that is better suited for future technologically and patron needs.