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MILLBURY, MASS.

Town Of Millbury
Meeting Minutes
Board of Trustees Millbury Public Library

Date: 1/15/19

Time: 6pm

Location of the Meeting: Millbury Public Library Meeting Room

Meeting Type: Regular X Special Emergency

Present: Jeff Raymond, Christine Brady, Bob Laut, Carol Burke, Paul DiCicco, Stephanie Phillips Richter, Rita Sullivan

Absent:

Call to Order: Carol Burke called the meeting to order at 6:15pm.

Minutes: Bob Laut moved to accept the minutes as written, Carol Burke seconded. Accepted unanimously.

Chairman's Minute: Paul DiCicco reminded those up for re-election to get their papers in order.

Director's Report: Liz Valero gave us paper copies of the budget that was submitted with Trustees comments on 27 December 2018. Jeff Raymond requested clarification on the key budget numbers; the total amount requested is above the required threshold for accreditation, the materials request is not.

Paul DiCicco questioned the maintenance budget request, as the idea proposed was to combine all maintenance fees together, while much of the official budget has line items.

Paul DiCicco also raised a question that the Town Manager approached him with regarding outside lighting for the library at Christmas. Jeff Raymond opposed the idea based on the financial situation of the library. After some discussion, Paul DiCicco opted to table the discussion until the September meeting.

Bob Laut asked about the night librarian position that has been requested. Liz Valero noted that many departments are hiring up in town, and this has been a position that has needed to be filled for a few years and has been zeroed out. Additionally, Liz Valero sees this as a safety issue; Jeff Raymond noted that the staff, at the staff meeting, do not see the library as unsafe. Liz Valero also noted that we have not ever reinstated the night custodian position, either.

Jeff Raymond asked about how this position may be impacted by possible changes in library opening hours. Liz Valero concurred, and the hours discussion will be raised at the next meeting.

Bob Laut offered an alternative where there is a substitute pool instead of a regular position. There would have to be discussion regarding how the union may impact it.

Jeff Raymond asked if there has been a time scheduled to meet with the Finance Committee. No time has been set yet, but Jeff Raymond asked Liz Valero to reach out to Jen O'Connell to get that scheduled.

Liz Valero moved onto programming. There is a soupmaking event on 29 January. Dr. Hughes is offering a stress management course on 9 February. The legislative breakfast is on 1 February, Jeff Raymond will be attending on behalf of the Trustees. Rita Sullivan requested that local organizations and businesses be notified, Liz Valero noted that there is a press release out. Some other representatives from the area will also be notified.

Barnes and Noble book fair is scheduled for 12-13 April.

Ann Dallair gave an update on children's activities. Chinese New Year storytime is upcoming, as well as a Valentine's Day Card contest. Creature Teacher in February during school vacation week, and Ann Dallair is also doing a "Make Your Own Slime" event. There is a zoo animal event coming on the 22nd of January. "Zoo on the Go" has 58 people signed up. The New Year's Eve party also maxed out, and got good press in the local paper. The Gingerbread Workshop before Christmas also maxed out. A music teacher has also volunteered for a free music program for infants and toddlers that has been very popular. The caricature event also went well, with lots of positive feedback.

Ann Dallair was approved for the summer reading tracking software. Agawam Paranormal is also rebooked for 29 October. We are now circulating children's games as well.

The library is now working with a new vendor for books.

Still no connection with John McElroy on the drag storytime. Rita Sullivan asked that we vote on the issue, as she had some concerns. Jeff Raymond officially moved that the Library Trustees endorse the idea of running a series of "Inclusion Storytimes," such as the drag storytime discussed last meeting. Stephanie Phillips Richter seconded.

In discussion, Chris Brady asked whether there would be age limits, and Jeff Raymond argued that it would be inappropriate. Rita Sullivan questioned whether this was a good use of library resources, Jeff Raymond and Chris Brady both argued that this was a perfect use of library resources, as exposure to these issues builds empathy and acceptance. A vote was taken, and the motion was approved 4-3: Jeff Raymond, Bob Laut, Stephanie Phillips Richter, and Chris Brady in favor, Paul DiCicco, Rita Sullivan, and Carol Burke opposed.

There are other events upcoming, including a workshop on how to run an escape room in a library and a NASA STEM event.

Liz Valero also noted how Milford handles staff meetings, and they close for an hour. The collective consensus of the board is that the Board prefers the library not close for these meetings. Some solutions were discussed, and we tabled to next session.

Old Business: The NEA Grant proposal is going to be delayed for a year due to a general lack of commitment to get groups on board. Jeff Raymond will revisit in the spring to push for a 2020 submittal.

No new information on the endowment. The friends agreement still needs to be put in place, and we will try to get the Friends president in for the next meeting. Bob Laut noted that we still need some clarity from the endowment CEO on best practices.

New Business: Chris Brady asked a question regarding the gas bills. It was clarified that one bill is for the delivery, and one is from the gas supplier.

Jeff Raymond raised the reviews for the director. The board will discuss in February, finalize questions in March, and do the reviews in April.

Chris Brady asked whether the alarm and fax machine were fixed, the fax machine is fixed and the alarm is scheduled to be fixed 16 January.

Adjournment: Chris Brady moved to adjourn, Rita Sullivan seconded. Adjourned at 8:15pm.

Carol F. Burke
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Christine Brady