

Chilmark Free Public Library - Board of Trustees meeting minutes
Wednesday, August 9, 2023 4 pm, at Chilmark Library meeting room

Present: Jane Kaplan (chair), Ebba Hierta, Candy Shweder, Kaila Allen-Posin, Andrew Dubno

-
- Meeting called to order at 3:59
- Minutes
 - A motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to accept the minutes of 7/12/23
- Communications
 - Donation sent in, with note specifically thanking Irene and Ann for their work
 - Orchid was purchased for the library as a gift
 - Lots of lauded praise for the books available and programs offered
 - There was an incident with a patron on Monday when the library was being closed. The patron tried to come in and became overtly frustrated after being repeatedly told that she could not enter, as the library was closed for the day. Signs were later found at the library damaged, vandalized.
 - Alan Dershowitz has repeatedly commented on public media outlets regarding how he felt “cancelled” by the Chilmark Library. This is in spite of the fact that he had a successful talk at the library in June. Trustees discussed the confusion around the meaning of “cancelled”, and also the fact that he was not invited to the MV Book Festival, which perhaps further fueled his lingering negative feelings.
- Chairman’s report
 - Nothing to report.
- Director's report
 - The number of people in the library in June 2023 was double that of June 2022 and circulation was up 60% from June 2022. Saturday storytime is a great success, with numbers that haven’t been seen in over 7 years.
- Programming report
 - Adult programming will be reduced to once/week starting after September and the library is planning to do a survey to patrons regarding the types of programming that is desired
 - Library Director shared that the library would like to offer a second weekly class, but one that does not require library staff - perhaps a yoga class, movement, etc.
- Financial report
 - Under expenditures, there was over \$3,369 unspent, due to a bookkeeping issue and a shift in the accountant role. This occurred while FY22 was being closed out, and would have required that the accountant redirect the expenses, which were taken from the Gift Fund, back to Expenditures. There is \$150,000 left in the Gift Fund so the issue does not need to be resolved.
- New Business
 - Discussion of priority setting for library projects
 - Library Director shared the requests that have been made recently of the library by various organizations, and the limit to the library’s capacity to meet every need.
 - This year, the Chilmark School Music Program will be held here on

Mondays, and half of the hallway closet in the front will be offered for storing musical instruments.

- The library allows the CCC camp to use the lot for drop-off
- The library offered the meeting room and parking lot when the library was closed for the Book Festival.
- The CCC playschool and preschool requested that the library take on components of their programming at their site; instead the library suggested that they use the facility periodically for their own programming.
- Library Director expressed a desire to discuss the larger mission and vision of CPL with a selectperson and the board of trustees, with the goal of addressing questions regarding the diverse requests made of the library. Board members suggested inviting a selectperson to an upcoming meeting to share ideas about long-range planning.
- In response to a question raised at the last meeting regarding the use of the small meeting room, Library Director stated that while the original building plan for the library included 3 private meeting rooms, there is just one currently. The small meeting room has been reserved non-stop through the summer, for young people taking online classes, and various seasonal residents and visitors who are working and need wifi.
- The board discussed the IGI summer lunch program, which ends this week. Board members talked through options for the future, and the hope to offer what we can as a community space to support the IGI program, as long as we have the capacity.
- Book Festival 2023
- The festival worked well with the library, particularly because there was a guard present at the library lot.
- Old business
- Update on HVAC problems
- They fixed the A/C, but then found another broken part that caused the back room to be below 60 degrees. Library Director opted to have no A/C rather than a very cold room. Library Director plans to communicate with the facilities manager regarding the HVAC system, and perhaps hiring a HVAC specialist to come out and assess the system.
- Update on computer firewall problems
- Still not fixed, but the library is using the town's connection for now.
- Update on parking challenges
- The CCC scheduling is problematic with the library's parking lot needs. There are still morning traffic issues, but by the afternoon it clears up.
- If asked next year, Library Director will ask the CCC to have a counselor stationed at the library lot to manage the drop-off and assure safety for the children.
- Update on director position salary basis
- Based on Town Administrator's message, it sounds as if the HR Department does not need to be contacted for this request. Instead, this is a simple budgeting issue and must be voted forward by the Board of Trustees.

Library Director will clarify with Town Administrator the protocol and let the Board know before they make a decision to vote it forward.

- Next meeting date
- September 15, 2023 at 10 am
- Adjournment
- Adjourned at 5:04 pm

Documents:

Financial Report 8/9/23

7/12/23 Minutes

8/9/23 Agenda

Director's Report, 8/9/23