

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session Minutes

April 7, 2016

Members Present: Nancy Abashian, Connie Barnes, Margaret Coffey, Jesse Katen, Lisa Kost, Jennifer Monroe, Margaret Shiel, Wendy Stewart, Amoreena Wade

Also Present: Director Lisa Wise, CSEA President Michelle Ford

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at by President Jesse Katen at 8:32.

Public Comments: None

Amendments to the Agenda:

- C. Barnes: proposal by community member to partner with BCPL to deliver books to underserved communities within Binghamton. See discussion in New Business.
- M. Coffey will ask Master Gardeners' Club to help with BCPL garden.

Minutes of Last Board Meeting:

- Minutes of March 3, 2016 regular Board meeting approved on a motion by M. Shiel and seconded by W. Stewart.

Appointments and Resignations:

- Sarah Reid, Librarian II, has resigned to start a new position at 4CLS. She will be missed.
- Candidates have been interviewed to fill the position.

REPORTS:

Director's Report:

- 4CLS has removed the administrative fee from the contract, so we should sign.
- Discussion of programming at BCPL for National Library Week, April 10-16. Staff commended for an impressive slate of events and a very effective flyer.

Board President's Report:

- 4CLS has temporarily withdrawn administrative fee for all libraries, for at least a year. Announced yesterday. See Old Business, below.
- Revisiting decision to lower fines and eliminating fees: in the six months since that decision was implemented, we've recouped \$21,220, despite decreasing circulation, for a gain of \$2000. L. Wise attributes some of that to being able to pay fines online by credit card.

- Revisiting room rental fees decision: Should we lower fees for room rentals? Committee chaired by C. Ebert asked by J. Katen to reconvene. Highlights of discussion:
 - If renters don't want to clean, they can pay more.
 - A. Wade will ask for feedback from biggest renter.
 - Paying groups should take precedence over county, etc. who don't pay. For community engagement, create connections.
 - L. Wise: earn \$3000-4000/year for room rentals. Clarify our goal: revenues or creating community engagement, connections.
 - L. Kost: think about differential fee structures for community groups and non-profits, since some NP do have budget to pay.
 - Rent out BCPL meeting space for Lyceum classes (M. Shiel offered to follow up); yoga, Girl Scouts, other not-for-profits per Vestal Library. Charges there minimal (\$5-20/hr for nfp) but publicizes meeting spaces.
- J. Katen reminds Board members to publicize meeting spaces & donations for Creation Station.

Finance Committee Report: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Internet Safety Policy; WiFi Policy; Creation Station Policy:

- All policies approved on a motion by A. Wade, seconded by C. Barnes.
- Creation Station: since BU has 3D printers for community use, no need at present to add. Maintenance and ventilation may preclude BCPL adding.

Proposal by Community Member to Provide Books to Underserved Populations:

- C. Barnes was recently approached by Peggy Benz to discuss with Board idea of having volunteers bring books every two weeks to underserved areas, North and Northwest side of Binghamton.
- Widespread support of an outreach program because of the potential to reach many disenfranchised community members, but also a recognition of practical difficulties.
- Discussion highlights:
 - Parents would need library cards and/or to receive amnesty for prior fines
 - need for books for parents as well as for children
 - would books be delivered to the home or to a more central location?
 - who will pay if books are not returned?;
 - is this reduplication of Bookmobile services (& if so, does that matter?)
 - implications of establishing what would be essentially a branch library
 - tie-in with Little Free Libraries partnership with BOCES in the fall.
- Ideas:
 - use books donated to Friends and leftover from sales (although this is counter to fostering sense of shared responsibility, in library membership) as a first-step to full library membership, to be followed with either
 - a "first one's free" model (i.e., make it clear that the first book is a giveaway, but subsequent books are regular loans, for which patrons

- would need a library card, take on responsibility for returns, though whether to BCPL or a more convenient location not clear); or
- a “fair-share” model (i.e., patron has to return book to get a new one. These books would not be catalogued)
 - Distribute through VINES Community Gardens for 6-10 weeks over summer, since Bookmobile no longer viable/doesn't serve populations Ms. Benz has identified
 - Conduct workflow feasibility study to ensure plan meets community needs and goals of BCPL without unduly stretching BCPL resources, primarily staff
 - Transportation issue for many potential patrons would not be addressed by delivering books

OLD BUSINESS:

Joint Library SUNY Broome:

- L. Wise along with several Board members met with J. Bernardo and M. Kalka of County Executive last month to discuss partnership between BCPL and SUNY Broome. Discussion of how to move forward with participation in Big Read as a first step towards that.
- L. Wise shared resource: *Circulating Joint Libraries: Models that Work* (Claire B. Gunnels, Susan E. Green, Patricia Butler).

Contracts: Four County Library System:

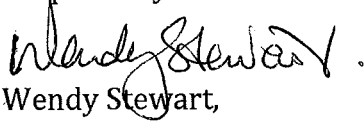
- The administration fee has been removed. Contract accepted on a motion by C. Barnes, seconded by A. Wade.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Director Evaluation: L. Wise has signed the evaluation and it is now on file with Personnel. M. Coffey praises L. Wise's work, all agree.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:29 a.m. on a motion by W. Stewart, seconded by M. Coffey.

Respectfully submitted,



Wendy Stewart,
Secretary