

Holliston Board of Library Trustees
Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting
March 4, 2020

Members Present: Nancy Baron, Bob Malone, Bob Ostrow, Kara Peterson,
Kristy Wiwczar

Staff Present: Leslie McDonnell, Director

Others Present: Yvette Cain, Holliston Reporter

Bob Malone called the meeting to order at 7:05PM. A quorum was present.

Childrens' Room Report

Leslie presented the Children's Room report. Great things happening in childrens' programs. The first Breakers event was a huge success. Dismantling old electronics kept the 13 participants very engaged. Plan is to repeat this event. Other popular programs included All About Trains, Just Dance, Movie and a Craft, Jenn Pipe's led Self Esteem Through Art, Henna tattoos, Music and Movement With Deb Hudgins, Paws For Reading Meet and Greet, Lego Club, The Drop-In Playgroup and Story Time. The mini-golf event was not as well attended as expected, but those who did participate had fun.

The digital media service, Hoopla launched with success. The service which allows patrons to avail themselves of video, ebooks, audio books and more on personal devices was purchased with money donated by the Friends of the Library. Patrons said the service is easy to use and its use came in on budget. Audiobooks were the most popular. Jenn Keen and Tammy Page will conduct classes on using Hoopla on using the service on March 26 and April 10 at the Senior Center.

Discussion

The water heater has been replaced.

FY 21 budget was presented to the Finance Committee which was perceived to have gone well. There will be 1% pay increase for staff. All department heads will be evaluated. Bob M. noted to the town that the Library Trustees will evaluate Leslie's performance.

Leslie has finalized the draft of the results of the planning survey. It's on track to be completed in April. The survey which was mailed with the town census netted more than 1100 responses consisting of current library users and non-users alike. The respondents overwhelmingly want the library to remain in its current building, with great interest in purchasing the vacant TD Bank building. Lack of parking continues to be a major concern. Other highlights included positive

feelings about the staff, interest in ebooks, mobile hot-spots, local people teaching subjects; like knitting and additional performance space.

Leslie toured the former TD Bank building next to the library with builder, Fran Colantonio, Chris Canty and Chris Maio to assess potential use of the space and ballpark renovation costs which were estimated at \$500,000. It was suggested that older childrens' book stacks could be put on lower level to accommodate weight of the books, while using the main floor for younger childrens' books and room for activities. Chris Maio noted that outfitting the building with fibre optics would cost approximately \$40,000. It was noted that there were two other parties viewing the building at the same time. It was also noted that TD Bank allowed library patrons use of their parking spaces. Loss of those spaces would be highly detrimental to the library.

Leslie noted the purchase and renovation of the TD Bank building would cost roughly \$1 million and would satisfy those who want a new building and those who want the library to remain downtown. The cost of a new building is projected to be more than \$12 million.

Library patron Cindy Foster contacted Leslie about initiating a letter writing campaign in favor of the town purchasing the TD Bank building. It was decided the Trustees should take no position on this. Cindy, as a town resident is free to pursue this on her own.

Bob M. will attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on March 9 to present a brief outlining the Trustees position on purchasing the building for use as the Childrens and Young Adults space.

Library consultant, Mary Branley, will be measuring the building and providing a report on whether the building will allow the library to provide the services the respondents said they wanted in the survey.

There was a discussion of adding security cameras to the building. All were in favor of this. Leslie will investigate this.

Kara motioned the meeting be adjourned. Meeting adjourned at 8:15PM.

Submitted by Bob Ostrow on March 9.

