

Holliston Board of Library Trustees Minutes of the Regular Monthly Meeting July 5, 2023

Members present by roll call: Karla Alfred, Kara Peterson, Kristy Wiwczar, Mareoun Bo Yai, Gwyneth Swain (joined meeting late)

Staff present by roll call: Deric Wilson, director

Karla Alfred called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm and read the statement regarding the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law and the authorized use of remote participation. A roll call of attendance was taken (Gwyneth was not present at roll call but joined the meeting later).

Approval of minutes from June 7th meeting

Karla moved to accept the minutes with amendments to clarify the title of the policy zoom Kara attended. Seconded by Kristy. Roll call vote taken, passed unanimously (minus Gwyneth who was not yet present).

Director's Report

Deric has started preparing the paperwork for the ARIS season and foresees no problems with continuing our qualification for State Aid. Deric has spoken with Travis Ahearn, town administrator, and we are cleared to put forth either/or the Flagg School and Arch St sites. Deric will be speaking with Andrea Bono-Bunker, one of the grant coordinators, about which of those two sites to put forth for consideration in addition to our current location. Deric and Travis have also started to work on the wording of a preliminary warrant article for October town meeting, which has a September submission deadline. Trustees had concerns over the open-ended ask for funds in the current wording, so Deric was going to research further similar warrant articles for more guidance. The funds the library will ask for will be matched about 45%, with a cap of \$100,000 with the additional opportunity of funding through green initiatives.

Donuts with the Director was well-attended and Deric spoke to many patrons. He received feedback on programming (concerns about the Rowley-sponsored drag queen program and clarifying programming policy), parking, and potential new sites/wants of a potential new library. Deric plans to rotate the times of these informal meetings, likely holding the next one in the evening to speak to a different group of patrons. The fax machine has been fixed and new stackable chairs were purchased for the conference room (potentially offer old chairs to parks and rec). ARPA funds meeting is later this month, so we should find out if the library will receive funds for a water fountain by the next meeting. Staff had no complaints about an overload of books to process after the 4

day 4th of July weekend. Emily emptied the outside returns bin twice over the weekend and it was half full each time.

Building Grants Update: Survey Review

The survey will be very similar to the last survey sent out with a few more specific questions that will be relevant to the building program. Kristy was interested in knowing where the data will 'live' and how interactive it will be to be able to "drill down" to more specifics based on an earlier answer in the survey. She was going to talk more specifics with Deric at a later time. Gwyneth recommends paring down questions 14 and 15 in the current sample survey. Kristy suggested having an open-ended question for people to give their thoughts on specific strengths or frustrations with the current library. It would also be helpful to know why patrons might not want specific things. Knowing what patrons would like for a "library of things" can help staff pare down collections and gauge the importance of specific storage.

Trustee Led Focus Group Meeting for the Building Program

Mary Braney will be touring the library and speaking with staff on August 2nd. She will attend the remote trustees meeting that evening to speak with trustees.

Other Business

Deric and Bo are moving forward with starting a mahjong class/group and have a new lead for a teacher. Deric is hopeful it can start early fall.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Kara, seconded by Kristy. Roll call voted and passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Next scheduled meeting: August 2, 2023 at 7 pm (remote)

Respectfully submitted,
Kara Peterson