

Meeting Minutes - November 11, 2020

Due to COVID-19 there are state and local restrictions on gatherings, resulting in this meeting being a virtual Board meeting on the Zoom Conferencing platform. The meeting was called to order by Board President Charlie Oliver at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Linda Binns, Beth Gould, Judy Lusk, Diane Magniaratti, Charlie Oliver, Tobey Reed, Eileen Struminski, Tricia Svendsen. Mahesh Patel joined the meeting at 6:25.

Library Director: Chris Johnson

Charlie read aloud the notice stating that this virtual meeting would be open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing Platform.

MINUTES

Minutes of the October 14, 2020 meeting were approved with the following correction:

The last sentence in the New Business section is corrected to read: *The window for submitting the E-Rate grant application is January through March. A filtering program for CIPA must be in place by the end of June to be ready for a July 1 start.*

BUSINESS REQUIRED BY LAW

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Charlie presented the Treasurer's Report. Warrant #5 in the amount of \$5,573.20 and payment of \$10 from Unique Management were approved. Funds in the amount of \$5,573.20 will be transferred from Rockland Trust.

Charlie and Mahesh plan to revise the Board's accounting system, perhaps using Quickbooks. A computerized system will make the accounting clearer, simpler and more streamlined.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris submitted a written report. Some items she mentioned:

- Computers from the top floor of the library will soon be moved to the second floor in preparation for work on the Building Envelope Project.
- Roof work has been delayed due to an outbreak of COVID at the roofing company.
- Chris attended 9 hours of online training regarding E-Rate. Quotes are needed if the library decides to utilize an E-Rate consultant.
- Grants for STEAM kits, Civic Engagement and the Big Read have been, or will soon be, submitted.
- Virtual programming continues.
- Current schedule and protocols at the library continue. They seem to have kept COVID out of the building.
- The Friends of APL are accepting donations once again, and the Book Nook is open. However, there will not be a Fall Book Sale.

TECH COMMITTEE

The Committee will be considering filtering programs and bids for E-Rate consultants when they come in.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- The Building Envelope Project work should begin later this month. The slate roof work is scheduled to begin around Christmas.
- Discussion on the filtering requirements of The Children's Internet Protection Act for eligibility for E-Rate program:
 - ~Filtering is a form of censorship which violates intellectual freedom and the 1st Amendment.
 - ~There is potential for public criticism.
 - ~It is necessary to pay for the filtering program; no information on the cost of this yet.
 - ~Substantial savings would be realized (\$17,200).
 - ~Mahesh asked about other libraries of similar size in the area that have filtering. Chris said very few have it. It was mentioned that our patrons could go to other libraries.
 - ~All Board members were polled on whether APL should move forward on applying for the E-Rate. All agreed.
 - ~Charlie and Chris will work with the person who manages the library's technology, determining the how-tos and cost of filtering. The application window is January through March, and the filtering must be in place by June.

NEW BUSINESS

Brainfuse, an online tutoring resource, is being considered for purchase. Library staff and Attleboro School Teachers are evaluating the program through the trial service, and Chris hopes to get feedback. She indicated that the program is not cheap, but with remote and hybrid learning these days, this would be helpful to parents and students. No staff training is needed, but marketing would be needed. Charlie and Chris will brainstorm funding options, one possibility being Chiarenza funds.

Linda asked Chris about her having reception duty at the doors of the library. She suggested it wasn't the best use of time for a Library Director and wondered if there were other options. Chris agreed, but with protocols in place all staff is involved, and she was unable to get added assistance through the city. Although volunteers were considered, manning three hour shifts over the daily six hour library opening with volunteers is not considered a viable solution.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Next meeting: December 9, 2020

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen