

Attleboro Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes - December 9, 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 Mangiaratti, Charlie Oliver, Mahesh Patel, Tobey Reed, Eileen Struminski, Tricia Svendsen.

Library Director: Chris Johnson

Assistant Library Director: Amy Rhilinger

Attleboro Mayor: Paul Heroux

President of The Friends of Attleboro Library: Maureen Canner

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

Acknowledgement was given to Christine Johnson who will be leaving her position as Library Director this month. Charlie spoke about the library status when Chris was hired as the Director of the Attleboro Public Library. There was a leaky roof, temperature control challenges, a staff shortage and so on. The city was looking for someone who would be up to the challenge and had thick skin. Chris, with her professionalism and subtle sense of humor embraced the challenges, even through the COVID-19 pandemic and the invasion of the building by construction crews. Representing the Board, Charlie expressed gratitude to Christine for all she's done to further the goals of the library.

Mayor Paul Heroux added words, thanking Chris for her professionalism, saying he never once had a complaint about her, and that can't be said of all Department Heads!

MINUTES

Minutes of the November 11, 2020 meeting were approved with the following correction:

Under Unfinished Business:

The E-rate filtering must be in place by June 2022.

BUSINESS REQUIRED BY LAW

None.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Mahesh presented the Treasurer's Report. Warrant #6 in the amount of \$3,900.79 was detailed, and there was no income to report. The motion to accept the Report was approved. Funds will be transferred from Rockland Trust.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Chris reported on the following:

- In the interest of safety and in compliance with state and local guidelines regarding COVID-19, library services were shut down after Thanksgiving. Curbside services only are being offered now due to COVID exposures.
- The limited hours should not be an issue with the state regarding funding, as long as the library is treated the same as other city departments.

TECH COMMITTEE

Charlie said the Committee is preparing to submit an RFP for contractors to bid on for funding to get the E-rate project off the ground. An expert on networks is helping with the RFP, and they are talking about hiring a consultant, perhaps the one who worked with the school department, to help with the E-rate application and RFP.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Chris reported that the Building Envelope Project is underway. Scaffolding is up, and the roof work should begin any day.
 - ~Workers need CORI checks prior to working onsite.
 - ~Staff workers from the fourth floor have relocated temporarily to another floor while work is being done.
 - ~Elevator work is due to begin soon.
 - ~Chris is waiting for MIS to work on computers and printers.
 - ~A lot of cleaning out of old supplies has taken place.
 - ~When reports were received about building project workers not following COVID protocols, communication with the site superintendent and project manager rectified the situation.
- CIPA discussion was tabled.
- Brainfuse had been sent to the schools for trial, and the response has been favorable.
 - ~Students who are fully remote can access it, and the program will be tried this year, beginning at the first of the year.
 - ~It starts with third grade, and an Attleboro Library Card is needed to use it. A temporary library card will also work.

NEW BUSINESS

A request for reinstatement of privilege to visit the library was made by an individual who had been banned because of his slashing of patrons' tires last year. The staff is not comfortable with his presence in the library during the pandemic because of his failure to follow rules even when asked repeatedly. He has a history of problems in the building including making unacceptable comments to staff and suspicious activity around the Book Nook payment box.

Charlie will respond to the individual's letter indicating that for the time being he will still not have library visiting privileges.

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

Next meeting: January 13, 2021

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen