

Attleboro Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – Jan. 12, 2022

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Beth Gould, Cindy Lorincz, Judy Lusk, Diane Mangiaratti, Charlie Oliver, Mahesh Patel, Tricia Svendsen; Tobey Reed joined the meeting via the Zoom conferencing platform.

Library Director: Amy Rhilinger

APL Staff: Cheryl Boucher

Guests: Ty Waterman

1. Introductions - Cheryl Boucher - APL staff; Ty Waterman - City Councilor

2. Rockland Trust

Charlie reported that Mary Friel from Rockland Trust was scheduled to be at the meeting for their annual presentation, but instead, Charlie met with Rockland representatives via Zoom. Charlie shared the link for the meeting with Board members. Board members received a 29 page booklet compiled by Rockland Trust with information on Library investments.

Based on the meeting Charlie reported that the stock market has been a little more volatile; there were no recommendations to make changes in the portfolio; the outlook is good for the economy, despite inflation. He also reported that he appreciates the consistency of staff at Rockland. The long term association allows them to know us and lets us know them.

3. Minutes

Minutes from the December 2021 meeting were accepted as presented.

4. Treasurer's Report

Mahesh presented Warrant #6 in the amount of \$3,809.37.

Current balance in the checking account is \$13,230.89, and the balance in Rockland Trust is \$1,825,514.00.

Charlie asked for a motion to accept the report. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

The amount of Warrant #6, \$3,809.37, will be transferred from Rockland Trust to the checking account.

5. Director's Report

Amy submitted a written report and gave the following highlights:

- **Building Project Update**
 - The building project is 99.2% complete.
 - There are a few kinks to work out.

- Most of the technology from Sensata is in use.
- Some servers need to be replaced.
- The move from the fourth floor is underway.
- There are still no printing services available in the building.
- **Long Range Plan**
 - Amy presented a copy of the Long Range Plan, outlining mission, statistics, goals, etc.
 - Ty suggested working with Catherine Feerick, the city Economic Development Director, on getting word out about publicizing the Library and their programs. Amy said she has been in touch with Catherine as well as with Mim Fawcett, the director of the Attleboro Arts Museum. They've talked about the library and the museum as two cultural venues at opposite ends of the downtown.
 - Amy said the plan is complete, but will be jazzed up with some graphics.
 - Charlie called for a motion to accept the Plan. The Board voted to approve the Long Range Plan.
- **Other**
 - Amy reported that 400 COVID test kits were distributed from the Library.
 - The library has been closed for shifts that can't be covered. The lowest staff level number is four for the library to be open. Amy mentioned that even when the library has had to be closed during normal hours, staff is in the building working.
 - Rambunctious teens have presented some issues in the library.
 - Ty advised Amy and the Board to ask the City Council President for a meeting to give a presentation expressing the need for increased staffing. Needs include having more than a skeleton crew, having enough staff to be open more hours and having enough staff to conduct programming.
 - Currently all staff positions are full. Some staff members are out for COVID issues; one is going out on maternity leave.
 - Outreach continues with Hot Spots provided by the MBLC going to the COA, the Literacy Center and the Housing Authority, for loan to their constituents.
 - Programming has been challenging. The Library has had to cancel one program due to a staffing shortage.
 - Big Read has interest from new partners - ARC, Building Commission and others.
 - The Big Read Committee plans to extend the time frame for the Big Read from a couple months in the fall to six months plus. (Sep. 2022 to Apr. 2023)
 - The Friends are preparing for Library Giving Day - April 6.
 - Staff visits to schools to meet with second graders are continuing. The goal is to have every second grader have a library card. The program to deliver books to the Title I program participants at Hyman Fine is going well.

6. Unfinished Business

A. CIPA Policy

The Policy is in place. A public meeting on Jan. 20 will be held to inform the public about CIPA and its implications. The meeting will be advertised in the Library newsletter and on the Library calendar.

B. Celebration

The celebration has been delayed due to COVID.

C. Accounting System Upgrade

The upgrade is on hold.

6. New Business

- Cindy asked about the ALA Code of Ethics discussion that was to be on this month's agenda. It is postponed till February.
- Diane asked about the Little Libraries that were to be installed around the city. Amy reported that the Parks and Forestry Dept. has not had time to put them up yet.
- Diane brought up the Board's previous discussion of eliminating fines and requested that it be put on the Feb. agenda.
- Charlie mentioned that there will be a tour for the Sensata folks as it is hoped that the Library can form a long term partnership with them. Their support will be acknowledged.
- Amy mentioned that the state aid requirement for open hours was waived last year due to COVID, and it looks like it may be waived again this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Next meeting: February 9, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen