

Attleboro Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes – March 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by Diane Mangiaratti at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDEES

Trustees: Cindy Lorincz, Judy Lusk, Diane Mangiaratti, Charlie Oliver, Mahesh Patel, David Pierce, Tricia Svendsen

Library Director: Amy Rhilinger

Staff: Darcie Schillinger

Guests: Brian French

1. Introductions

Darcie Schillinger - Coordinator of Reader Services

Brian French - Library patron

2. Minutes of Prior Meeting

There was a motion to accept the minutes of the February meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

3. Business Required by Law

None

4. Treasurer's Report

Mahesh presented Warrant #9 with a balance of \$2,595.71. There was a motion to transfer the amount of the warrant from Rockland to the checking account. It was approved. Current balance in the account is \$5,741.10. The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

5. Committee Reports

A. Nominating Committee

Judy and Cindy presented the nominated slate of officers for the coming year:

President - Diane Mangiaratti

Vice President - David Pierce

Secretary - Tricia Svendsen

Treasurer - Mahesh Patel

There was a motion to approve the slate as presented. It passed unanimously.

B. Policy Committee

The Committee presented an early draft of the Staff Social Networking Policy for review. Suggestions were recorded, and an amended draft will be presented at the April Board meeting.

6. Director's Report

Amy submitted a written report commenting on the following:

- The City Purchasing Office is assisting with getting a printer lease approved.
- Outreach takes place on a regular basis through attendance and/or participation at local events. When out in the community Amy and Joseph are always representing the Library.
- The recent Puzzle Race in the Marble Lobby was a great success with 7 teams involving 38 participants.
- The Friends of APL have received several matching grants and other donations for Library Giving Day

(Apr. 3).

- Community Read events - Oak Knoll Wildlife Sanctuary program and the Basketball Clinic - each drew 60+ participants.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Strategic Planning Update

Goals have been posted on a white board and attention is drawn to them at Department Head meetings. Strategic Plans are formulated every five years and staff have been encouraged to think ahead regarding goals for the next plan.

B. Security Update

The teen situation continues, with a recent congregation of 22 teens outside the Library entrance, making it intimidating and difficult for patrons to enter and exit the building. Behavior in the library is concerning with suspected vaping, inappropriate questions asked of staff, and an instance of harassment of a patron who was studying in the Library. The Mayor and Police Chief are aware of the issues. The city does not have an Outreach worker at this time. It is hoped that a person in that position might be able to help with some of the teen issues in the Library. There was mention of a social work intern being able to help through interaction and referrals when staff members see problems related to teen behavior and other issues. There is a budget request for a part time security guard.

The issue with teens has been going on for one year now, and Amy has talked to a couple City Councilors, making them aware of the situation. Amy also talked to the new Recreation Director who has ideas about non-sport activities at the Recreation Center. Currently the Center is open only until 5:00 p.m., and scheduling at least one day with evening hours has been discussed. It is felt that other spaces and activities in the city could provide options other than the library for teens to “hang out.”

Amy documents incidents in logs and pictures and continues to inform City officials of the situation.

8. New Business

A. Library Director Evaluation Form

An updated Library Director Evaluation Form with revised timelines was presented. Several small changes were recommended by Board members, and the evaluation tool will be ready for distribution at the April Board meeting.

- B.** Diane and Judy met with the Mayor and discussed electronic sign funding and funding for a security guard in the Library. No commitment was made regarding funding.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Next meeting: April 10, 2024, at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Svendsen