

**ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY, MAY 6, 2019  
ILSLEY LIBRARY, MIDDLEBURY**

***MINUTES - DRAFT***

Board decisions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Present:

Board members: Catherine Nichols, President; John Freidin; Faith Gong, Secretary; Amy Mincher, Treasurer; Joe McVeigh

Library Director: Dana Hart

Public: Friends President Lorrie Muller

**CALL TO ORDER**

See Board Packet for agendas and accompanying documents.

President Catherine Nichols called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

**FINALIZING FUTURE MEETING TIMES**

The new Ilsley Library Board meeting time will be second Mondays, from 5 PM to 7 PM.

The September meeting will be Tuesday, September 3, from 5 PM – 7 PM.

The Fall Friends' Appreciation Program (a private tour of the Sheldon Museum and a reception at IPL) will be Thursday, October 3 at 6 PM.

The Board will march with the Ilsley Library group in the Middlebury Memorial Day Parade – details to be announced.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

DECISION: The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of April 8, 2019, and the minutes from the April 27 Board Retreat.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**FRIENDS' REPORT**

Lorrie Muller reported on the Friends Book Sale on Saturday, May 4. Despite staffing issues, they made \$506.75.

The next Friends' meeting is Thursday, May 9 (the last one until September), and they will consider whether to buy lightweight folding tables to replace the heavy ones they are currently using. Amy Mincher will attend the meeting as a Board representative.

May 22 will be the Friends' annual meeting, and the Friends will speak before the May 22<sup>nd</sup> "First Wednesday" (rescheduled) event.

May 21 is the annual Vermont Library Association Conference Friends and Trustees Day, and several Board members will attend, along with Lorrie and Dana.

### **VOTING ON POLICIES**

DECISION: The Board voted to adopt both the Treatment of Gifts Policy, and the Stewardship of Natural Environment Policy.

### **NEXT STEPS FROM THE BOARD RETREAT**

-Catherine presented her notes on funding, which include researching upcoming funding projects around Middlebury, talking with Kathleen Ramsey re. town projects demanding bonds or large allocations, calculating cost per taxpayer (John), the impact of the reappraisal, exploring other funding sources, and considering models for outlying towns that participate in Ilisley.

At the end of Catherine's efforts, Dana will help her to compile her findings in a spreadsheet.

-John got an estimate for a 20-year bond: To borrow \$1 million and to pay the amortization and interest will raise tax rates by 1 penny per year. For someone with a \$200,000 house, this would be \$20 per year. The first year is the highest, and the rate adjusts downward in subsequent years.

-Joe raised the question of our interest in models with outlying towns: Are we interested in it just from a fundraising/financial standpoint, or from a programmatic standpoint?

-Amy and Joe are in charge of coalition building. They are wondering what we have to offer in terms of partnership. Dana thinks it would be good to work with Neighbors Together or Better Middlebury Partnership so that the library will have a presence at their events. John raised the possibility of partnering with Rotary, Lions Club, etc. – organizations that give money. Amy and Joe are also considering how to build the Board's relationship with the Selectboard. Goal: Building relationships so that when the time comes for a bond vote, people will turn out in support.

John suggested asking, "How can the library help you?"

-Dana and Faith are tasked with researching the effect of "doing nothing" with the library building. John suggested talking about the fact that the front steps aren't usable for a portion of the year, and the dangers involved in an unmonitored entrance right near the bathrooms and children's room.

-Dana and Catherine will meet with the architects to discuss a rough estimate of the cost of a new plan, plus the effect of inflation on the current estimate.

- Barbara, John and Dana met to discuss “Slow Democracy” outreach. This summer they’d like to define the questions they would ask the community, and various issues that the group would need to confront. They would also like to set up a time to talk with Susan Clark in May/June to discuss the process. Barbara suggested researching “deliberate dialogue” or “democratic dialogue.” John found an enormous amount of information, and felt that picking one method would be overwhelming.

Dana said we’ll have to wait a bit on setting a timeline for making Decision 1 (Move forward? Reconceptualize? Do nothing?) until we get more information on how long the process will take, although she’d still like to set a goal for the fall.

#### **DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

Catherine expressed her hope that Board members will make a point to show up at library events and book sales.

Dana reported that the library budget looks good. We’ll be over a bit in building repairs and part-time temporary staff budgets, but those expenses are offset by other items.

Two final interviews have been set with candidates for the new full-time position. The interviews will be finished by the last week of May, and an offer will be made by the first week of June for a July 1 start.

#### **DISCUSSION OF CARD FEES FOR NONRESIDENTS**

What is the current cost to Middlebury taxpayers for the library, vs. the fees that nonresidents are asked to pay for an Ilsley card? Presenting this information would be helpful to people.

#### **BOARD COMMENTS**

Joe reported on his visit to the Greenfield (MA) library, which successfully raised funding for a major new building project. Those with whom he spoke encouraged the IPL Board to visit other libraries as we undertake a building project.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

President Catherine Nichols declared the meeting adjourned at 6:51 PM.

#### **NEXT REGULAR MEETING**

Monday, June 10, 5:00 PM, Jessica Swift Community Room

Respectfully Submitted,  
Faith Gong, Secretary