



**ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 10, 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

CALL TO ORDER

See Board Packet for agendas and accompanying documents.

Treasurer Amy Mincher called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

DECISION: The Board approved the minutes of the regular meeting of May 6, 2019.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

Joe McVeigh reminded the Board that, in a prior discussion of whether to expand the number of Trustees, we'd considered inviting a Board member from another library with a larger number of Trustees (perhaps Shelburne) to come speak with us. He also mentioned inviting Chris Kirby and Tricia Allen to a future meeting to update us on their work.

John Freidin expressed his wish to see upcoming Ilsley programs printed more prominently in the Addison Independent.

Amy Mincher reported back on the Vermont Library Trustees and Friends Conference that she and Catherine Nichols attended at UVM. One suggestion she took away was to approve the agenda at the start of each Board meeting.

MCTV REPORT

As Board Liaison to MCTV, Joe McVeigh reported on his first MCTV Board meeting. Discussion focused on preparing for the Memorial Day parade, a financial report, the election of officers, and the idea of becoming a community media center. Len Rowell, the Chair, is very interested in storytelling, so they are considering setting up a "StoryCorps"-type booth at Festival on the Green. They also have a Selectboard representative, Farhad Kahn.

FRIENDS' REPORT

Lorrie Muller did not attend, but Dana and Amy reported on the June book sale (the last book sale of the summer) which made \$982, of which more than half was from membership fees.

VOTING ON POLICIES

DECISION: The Board voted to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy.

AD HOC COMMITTEE UPDATES

Dana and Catherine decided not to meet with the architects until they have selected a facilitator for the Slow Democracy discussions.

John wrote to Susan Clark, co-author of *Slow Democracy*. She wasn't available to meet with us, but recommended her sister, Delia Clark. Delia Clark will meet with John, Dana, and Barbara on Wednesday in Woodstock to discuss the process of meeting with the public and her rates. Joe voiced concern about the financial aspect, given that Ilseley has current operational expenses.

Dana and Faith, who are tasked with reporting on the cost of doing nothing to the current Ilseley building, have not met since the last Board meeting. Dana has walked through the building with Dan Werner to get a better sense of where things stand.

To involve the Selectboard more in the process, Dana and Catherine would like to meet with Brian Carpenter.

Dana and Tricia will meet with Nancy Malcolm and Karen Duguay of Neighbors Together in order to work on some Summer 2020 projects, such as a story walk of laminated book pages, and an ongoing "truck touch."

DISCUSSION: FINE FREE LIBRARIES

John and Catherine voiced support for eliminating fines. Joe and Faith were not sure. Ilseley makes around \$9-10,000 from fines annually, which is 1.3% of the annual budget.

Joe cited gains in goodwill and encouraging people (particularly those who are less well off) to use the library more.

Dana pointed out that fines are revenue that goes into the town's general fund, so the library never gets it directly.

Faith voiced concern that fines teach respect and responsibility for library materials, and that eliminating them may cheapen the sense of the library's value.

Excusing fines would involve some staff retraining. It would likely also involve a discussion with the Selectboard and the public.

Dana will get information on outstanding fines and report back.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dana distributed the new brochures and impact report. Chris Kirby and Dana have taken Adobe classes so that they can update the materials. Copies will be distributed at the Farmers' Market, on the Circulation Desk, and online. They will also be included in the Selectboard packet. John suggested having them at the local inns, at Neighbors Together events, and at the Chamber of Commerce.

Dana will conduct a programming audit over the first few weeks of July with staff, in order to get a full picture of library programs. Renee Ursitti will begin her new position on July 2.

Kindergarteners throughout Addison County will be signed up for digital library cards in the fall – with which they can access digital e-books and audio books, which never incur fines.

BOARD COMMENTS

John suggested that the Board sign a sympathy card for Judy Holler, whose son died recently. Joe will leave a card at the Circulation Desk for Trustees to sign.

ADJOURNMENT

Treasurer Amy Mincher declared the meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Monday, July 8, 5:00 PM, Jessica Swift Community Room

Respectfully Submitted,
Faith Gong, Secretary