

**ILSLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2022
SARAH PARTRIDGE LIBRARY**

Board decisions are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

Present

Board members: Joe McVeigh, President; Amy Mincher, Secretary; Andy Hooper, Treasurer; Steven Jay Gross, Meg Baker

Library Director: Dana Hart

Public: Catherine Nichols, Revell Allen, Laura Fetterolf

Minutes taken by Saskia Gori-Montanelli.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

President Joe McVeigh called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

See Board Packet <Board Packet 4.12. 2022.pdf> for agenda and accompanying documents.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the previous regular meeting were accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Catherine Nichols congratulated whoever was in charge of the art display at the Ilsley Library, because former Trustee Alice Eckles' artwork was wonderful, and hung up in such a creative way.

BRANCH LIBRARIAN REPORT

Branch Librarian Laura Fetterolf introduced herself and shared her background with the Trustees. She spoke about the changes she has made to the Sarah Partridge Library, such as new displays, weeding of books, hosting storytime for preschoolers, hosting book clubs on the lawn, and aiming to cultivate a diverse collection. Her goal is to work on creating a greater integration between Sarah Partridge and Ilsley, and to continue building connections with colleagues at Ilsley.

Library Director Dana Hart would like to have Ilsley staff work at Sarah Partridge more often and vice versa in order to create a connection between the two libraries. Ilsley substitutes and staff have come to Sarah Partridge to cover for Laura when she's been sick, but this can be a challenge.

Dana explained that Ilsley and Sarah Partridge are two branches, rather than Sarah Partridge being a branch that tends to Ilsley's needs. These are the two locations of the unified mission.

In terms of collection, Laura wants to order books for Sarah Partridge that haven't been ordered for Ilsley, because she believes the collections should be different.

The Sarah Partridge building is owned by the East Middlebury Fire District, and governed by the East Middlebury Prudential Committee. The Ilsley budget receives \$15,000 annually from the East Middlebury Fire District to help pay for Sarah Partridge..

Meg Baker asked how many residents from out of town use Sarah Partridge instead of Ilsley. Laura explained that many people from Ripton use Sarah Partridge, and many East Middlebury residents request books from Ilsley and have them delivered to Sarah Partridge. The Trustees congratulated Laura on all of her hard work.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dana put together an overview of library activities for the Ilsley 100 Project Group. Steve Gross was impressed with the overview. After Dana gives it to the Ilsley 100 Project group, she will ask Kathleen Ramsay to put it in the Selectboard board packet.

Dana is getting ready to send out requests for a proposal for a new fire alarm system.

QUARTERLY FINANCIAL REPORT

Andy Hooper said that last quarter's financial numbers have returned to where they were 6 months ago. The Trustees' investments amount to about \$100,000, though a portion of that amount is restricted.

Dana explained that the library was going to be over-budget by about \$10,000 for its FY '22 operating budget because of facility issues. The library will hold back on collection spending because of this.

Amy Mincher asked about the gardens outside the Ilsley Library. Dana said that there was about \$400 left for garden maintenance this spring. The front garden needs watering, and the back garden needs to be simplified so that it becomes less expensive to maintain.

PROJECT TEAM UPDATE

Joe stated that the Ilsley 100 Project Team held their first meeting. The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 21st at 10am in the community meeting room. The Project Team is composed of two library Trustees, two members of the Selectboard, and three public members.

The Trustees discussed possibilities for the future of the library. They agreed that it costs a lot of money to fix a 100-year-old building, and it might cost less to build an entirely new building. Issues of cost and benefit need to be looked at carefully, so that the Ilsley 100 Project Team can make a recommendation to the Selectboard.

Catherine Nichols was interested in the Downtown Master Plan, wondering if anything has come out of that particular document. Dana explained that the document exists as a guide to future projects but was not aware of any specific projects under development.

Meg noted that town permitting requirements now ask those who wish to develop new project to indicate how it supports the Downtown Master Plan.

BOARD DISCUSSION: MISSION STATEMENT

Joe explained that as the Trustees look at examples of mission statements from other states, they will notice that there are a lot of ways to set them up. Although what some people call mission statement, other people call a vision or value statement. Some are lengthy and detailed, and some are succinct.

Meg explained that in her view, a vision statement is an aspirational goal, whereas a mission statement is what is going to be done.

Steve said that the Trustees are in the business of empowering community development in a dynamic way. If they want to get the resources they need, they have to inspire people with a vision that is compelling, democratic, and dynamic.

Dana agreed with Meg's point about visions being aspirations and missions being what we do to get there. A vision would be that Middlebury is a place where all children have access to a productive life. In that situation, the mission is to provide equitable access.

Joe was struck by an organization known as Neighbors Together. He wondered whether the Trustees should be working more collaboratively with others in the community. Steven added that he wanted to do something visionary and aspirational. Meg said that a drawback would be that they're looking at applying for money, and there isn't much time to create something before it comes time to apply for grant.

BOARD COMMENTS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There were no board comments.

ADJOURN

President Joe McVeigh adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled meeting will take place on Monday, May 9th, at 5 p.m. in the Jessica Swift Community Meeting Room.