

DRAFT MINUTES – MARCH 22, 1922 MEETING OF THE KEENE PUBIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The meeting was called to order at 5:04 by Vice President Stroup standing in for President Alexander who was unable to attend (as were Judy Putnam and Chuck Redfern.) Present were: Carl Jacobs, Ken Jue, Yves Gakunde, Kathleen Kennedy Burke, Jane Pitts, Paul Henkel, Ritu Budakoti, Councilor Bobby Williams, Library Director Marti Fiske, Assistant Director Susan Bloom, and remotely, Kathleen Packard.

After minor grammatical corrections raised by Yves were noted, Paul moved to approve the February minutes. Ken seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

FINANCE: Did not meet.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: As interest in increased usage of library spaces returns slowly to pre-pandemic levels, the question of allowing alcohol in the courtyard has been raised, occasioned by a potential wedding space rental of Heberton (alcohol can be served with a licensed bartender and permit inside at this point.) After some discussion, Paul moved that the board form a policy to allow the serving of alcohol in the courtyard with guidelines, such as no breakable glass, proper signage to outline the physical boundaries, and only when the library is closed. Carl seconded and motion passed unanimously.

A demonstration of the impressive new stage lighting system in Heberton was given by library aide Sage.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: Did not meet.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Previous meeting rescheduled to Thurs, Mar 24 at 5:00 pm.

FINE ARTS: Next meeting Wed, April 6, 10:00 am.

POLICY: The non-monetary gift policy was circulated before the meeting. Bill moved to approve the policy, Ritu seconded and it passed unanimously. Likewise, a new policy covering the use of bulletin boards was adopted unanimously, with Bill making the motion and Ken seconding. The committee meets again on April 8th.

FKPL: Did not meet in April. Spring booksale canceled.

HORATIO COLONY MUSEUM: Did not meet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Circulated prior to meeting. Highlights:

KPL now signed up with the Unite Us platform for social service referrals – this will allow staff to submit a request for information and services - the program will sort out which programs to refer the individual to.

The Owls, purchased through ARPA 2 grant, are now being used by staff and groups in the meeting rooms – this facilitates both Zoom and in person participation.

One- Year Anniversary of Racial Justice and Community Safety Report: Embracing the philosophy that the KPL is a Library for Everyone, and empowered by both the City and the Board of Trustees, the library continues to work with the English Language Learner program at Community Ed, the Human Rights Committee, Jonathan Daniels Center for Social Responsibility, and the Keene International Festival. The

heightened awareness is not only reflected in ongoing collection development, but as an aid to staff as they set up displays and direct patrons to a variety of materials.

A staff training and development day is scheduled for Monday, April 11th. The library will be closed and a series of programs and discussions focusing on Strategic Planning, Customer Service, Neuro-divergent & Deaf patrons, Challenges to Materials, Self-Care& Nurturing and Safety are among some of the topics.

Fir green was the preferred color for the outdoor lockers; they have been ordered. Statistics from 2019-2022 projected show circulation down, but other services such as virtual programming up. Computer usage up, as is meeting room rental. Gail Z has applied to two grants “Eisner Graphic Novels for Libraries” and the “Stephen T. Riedner Grant for Life Enhancing Library Programs for People Living with Dementia”.

Additionally, a grant due 5/6 would help the library possibly procure some outdoor furniture, probably in the form of picnic tables.

OLD BUSINESS: Jane reminded us that she has been holding money collected from a few trustees for staff appreciation for more than two years now. Additional donations from those who may not have contributed are welcome – please contact Jane. Funds will be directed to Marti for the upcoming staff development day scheduled for April.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Meeting adjourned 5:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kennedy Burke, Sec’y