LONG RANGE PLANNING MEETING MINUTES- JANUARY 26, 2023 – 5:00 PM

The full committee, incorporating our community representatives, met for the first time. Present were: Marti Fiske, Susan Bloom, Susan Matthews, Jen Alexander, Leatrice Oram, Kathleen Kennedy Burke, Yves Gakunde and Jenna Henderson. Ritu Badakuti was unable to join us.

Marti led an introductory orientation with ground rules and walked the group through some protocols, also providing handouts. The agenda included: Basics of the Right-to-Know Law, what constitutes a meeting, quorum numbers, email (NEVER REPLY ALL!), committee communication, and the need for 24 advance notices of meetings.

For library background, a list of many KPL Services was circulated as well as facility statistics for the past 5 years – so many variables to weave in as we continue to interpret the wide ranging implications of the pandemic and its impact on services and formats. A copy of the abbreviated two year Long Range Plan assembled in 2021, and Planning for Results were distributed.

Members were asked to view a short Harwood Method video as an introduction to the approach we will be taking which emphasizes the aspirational and positive (very simplistically: what kind of a community do you want to live in and why rather than how can we improve the library.)

In the next five months, the committee will be tasked with designing and executing a community survey, meeting with a series of small groups, participating in larger community conversations (asking four basic questions) with an experienced facilitator about to be hired (final references pending), collating/sifting through these results and producing/writing a clear directional plan for the KPL (to be presented to the full Board of Trustees before the end of Fiscal Period ending June 30).

The Keene State management class we explored working with is not available to assist us at this time.

The community conversation participants, either for small group visits or as invitees to the three larger forums, continues to be built. Please forward any suggestions, with contact information if available, to Marti to add.

Next meeting Feb 9, 2023 – Booras Room, 5pm

Kathleen Kennedy Burke