

Keene Public Library
Trustees Meeting
September 26, 2023
Miller Vincent Room 5:00pm

Present: Trustees Bill Stroup, Paul Henkel, Pam Russell-Slack, Don Caruso, Yves Gakunde, Justin Somma, Judy Putnam, Kathleen Packard, Jane Pitts, and Katherine Baer (remote). Marti Fiske, Library Director; Susan Bloom, Assistant Director; Eleanor Green, Teen Librarian; and Bobby Williams, City Council Liaison.

Absent: Trustee Ritu Budakoti.

Bill Stroup opened the meeting at 5:00 pm.

It was moved (Bill Stroup) and seconded (Pam Slack) to accept Katherine Baer as a remote participant. Approved unanimously.

Bill welcomed new city appointed Trustees Katherine Baer and Don Caruso. Trustees and others introduced themselves.

It was moved (Yves Gakunde) and seconded (Pam Slack) to approve the minutes of August 23 as presented. Roll call vote: 7 ayes, 3 abstentions (Baer, Caruso, Somma).

Bill introduced Eleanor Green, the new Teen Librarian who replaced Jay Fee in August. She has begun teen gaming drop-in sessions, teen writing sessions, teen crafting sessions, and a discussion group on banned books and intellectual freedom, among other things. She has a lock-in planned for October. She is starting to visit schools and is on the Library social media team. She was at the Library's booth at both the International Festival and Keene Pride.

Bill asked for input on committee assignments, including information on when committees meet, and who is chairing.

FINANCE COMMITTEE Judy reported that she and Jane are working on transferring Treasurer responsibilities to Jane, the new Treasurer, including giving her access to bank accounts and p-card accounts.

Jane asked for acceptance (Pam Slack moved, Paul Henkel seconded) of a gift of \$500 from Jonathan Bloom and Sheila Blair. The unrestricted donation was accepted unanimously. Jane reported that the membership fee for NH Library Trustees Association for each Trustee, the Director and the Assistant Director have been paid.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE Paul reported that the committee is looking into a tree identification program what will allow access to tree identification through a bar code system

COMMUNITY OUTREACH No meeting The Library participated in Keene Pride and the International Festival in September.

LONG RANGE PLANNING No report

FINE ARTS The committee met in September and is continuing work on previous projects: awaiting direction from the City on the requirements for an appraisal of any art work; research on an exhibit case; working with Keene High Art Department on an exhibition of student work in conjunction with the Scholastic Arts awards. The antique clock has been repaired and remounted at the foot of the main staircase.

POLICY No report.

FRIENDS OF KPL Judy reported that the Friends Book Sale will be held in October. Trustees may sign up to help at the sale: Wednesday, Oct 18th, 10:00 to noon, set up; Thursday, Friday or Saturday 2-hour shifts are available. Please contact: Jan.Manwaring@yahoo.com . The most current Friends newsletter was distributed, and Trustees were urged to become members of the Friends. The Friends intend to participate in the charity Casino Gaming program again this year. Last year the Friends received \$15,000 from the program.

HORATIO COLONY MUSEUM No report.

LITERACY No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT Marti reported that there is not yet much activity from Swanzey residents as they begin to use KPL while their library is under renovation. The Library had a booth at Keene Pride, where the LGBTQIA collection was highlighted, and at the International Festival, where the developing foreign language collection was showcased. Marti will participate in the Kristallnacht observance in November. Marti distributed a list of Library activities related to the City Council goals.

OLD BUSINESS Judy, Jane and Marti attended the first session of the Unwinding of the tax credit project that financed the renovation of the Masonic Building. The end of the unwinding will result in the passing of ownership of that building back to the City in December, 2024. The first meeting was a review of how the project was structured. No red flags or significant problems in the process are foreseen at this point.

NEW BUSINESS Bill mentioned that February, 2024 will be the 125th anniversary of the opening of the Keene Public Library in its present location. He would like to begin to plan a

program for the anniversary. He mentioned that the NH Library Trustee Association is holding a Trustee Orientation workshop on October 23.

Jane presented the new Digital Trustee Handbook, with interactive links, a breakthrough in making all the information relevant to Trusteeship readily available.

Moved (Pam Russell-Slack) and Seconded (Kathleen Packard) at 6:00 pm to move to executive session to review an employee matter. Motion approved unanimously.

Returned to the meeting and adjourned at 6:35.

Judy Putnam
Temporary Secretary

DRAFT