

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of April 21, 2022 meeting, via zoom

Present: Pat Jones, John Fitzgerald, Marti Wolfe, Betsy Perry, Colin Page, Elinor Klivans, Jeremy Pratt, Kristen Smith, Penny Abbott, Silvio Calabi, Susan Fitzgerald, Susan Todd, Nikki Maounis, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson. Absent: Ken Gardner, Sara Serafini

Meeting called to order at 4:00.

Pat Jones

Public Comment

Pat Jones

There was no public comment

Minutes of the February meeting were approved unanimously by a show of hands.

Directors Report

Nikki Maounis

- Last week was **National Library week**.
- Library planned daily events highlighting staff, parks, history center
- 25 donations were received, ½ of which were new donors
- Annual donations goal has been extended to \$210,500 from \$185,000 to meet increasing needs
- Currently need to raise \$26,000 to meet extended goal for year
- Nikki discussed **personnel challenges**-
 - 1 employee on family medical leave, out for 3 weeks to date, unsure when returning
 - 1 employee moving out of state
 - 1 employee having major surgery and will be out minimum of 2 weeks up to 6 weeks
- These challenges are putting a major strain on the library
- Nikki posted a job listing on the Maine state library website, this am, April 21, 2022.
- Hope is to have a new employee by June
- Nikki discussed the **CPL Materials Selection policy**
- Since 2008 when Nikki became Director, there have been no serious book challenges to the library
- New language has been added to the existing policy stating that the challenge must be presented by a library card holder in good standing.
- Discussion of definition of “good standing” followed
- CPL Materials Selection policy was unanimously approved by a show of hands.

Finance Committee

John Fitzgerald

- Abe Dugal and Sarah Ruef-Lindquist from Allen Agency presented the CPL quarterly report to the finance committee
- The CPL fund has taken a hit, but portfolio is conservative and well positioned
- There is \$100,000 in cash for any unexpected expenses.
- Portfolio performed well from 2019-2021 and has a positive balance from initial investment
- Fundraising income was down in March, but still ahead for the fiscal year
- Fundraising goal has been raised from \$185,000 to \$210,500 to meet rising expenses
- Nikki has kept expenses well under control
- Book sales are a highlight
- Unexpected expense for a 2nd propane tank
- Electricity is holding its own after Siemens work
- All things considered, budget and finances in good shape
- Finance committee report was unanimously accepted with a show of hands

Strategic Plan

Nikki Maounis

- Strategic plan written in 2015 and implemented in 2016 has lapsed
- Committee of Betsy Perry, Kristin Smith, Susan Todd and Silvio Calabi decided to refresh and update
- The updated version was reviewed by Nikki
- Nikki reviewed the 3 goals – Read, Connect, Discover and provided examples of actions
 - Read**- Create young readers,
Enroll new library card holders to receive e- newsletters with book suggestions
Provide steam activities
 - Connect** – Digitally inclusive, Center for Public Life
Library could offer appointments for patrons to learn to use their devices,
Library provides informal meeting space for groups
 - Discover**- Life long learning,
Library offers video tutorials, example: How to research using the Walsh History center information
Stewardship to promote story of grounds, Naturalist & Amphitheater walking tours
Rewrite the parks brochure
- Primary goal of library is to nurture young readers.

Rising Seas Committee

Silvio Calabi

- Silvio Calabi, Jennifer Gramata and Penny Abbott met with group of property owners abutting Camden harbor to discuss rising seas
- Group led by Rich Anderson from Camden Yacht club
- There was agreement that sea level rise is happening and should be addressed as a group
- Jennifer did extensive research to source funding from Federal, state agencies, and grants
- Many funding opportunities exist .
- A condensed working list was submitted to Rich Anderson for further review.
- A copy of the list will be shared with the CPL trustees.

Camden on Canvas

Marti Wolfe

- Dates of COC July 29, 30 and 31.
- Auction will be held in the Amphitheatre 4-6pm Sunday afternoon, July 31
- 9 inns and 1 private guest house will house COC artists
- 12 confirmed business sponsorships providing \$7400 in funding
- 20 artists painting for plein air auction
 - Artists include- Fenner Ball, Daniel Corey, Marsha Donahue, Carole Douglas, Cooper Dragonette, Diane Dubreuil, Stephan Giannini, Roberta Goschke, Alison Hill, Jill Hoy, Ryan Kohler, Jonathan McPhillips, Nathaniel Meyer, Colin Page, Matthew Russ, Bjorn Rundquist, Janet Sunderland, George Van Hoeck, Michael Vermette and Peter Yesis.

Parks

Dave Jackson

- Volunteer spring cleanup is Friday, April 29, 11-1pm.
- Browntail moth remediation with spray will begin May 1
- 19 weddings scheduled for this summer

Facilities

Ken Gross

- There has been water in the children's library and Nikki's office

- Previous work on skylight and drainage in the stone wall has helped to mitigate somewhat
- Fans and radiant heating in floors help to dry out spaces
- Waiting for reports from Siemens on roof and preventative maintenance

Development Committee

Betsy Perry

- Jenni Parmalee has sent out information on new Millay member appeals
- A list has been compiled of possible new members from COC and known community members
- List should be shared with board members to help sign appeals
- Appeals will go out in the next several weeks

New Business

- Jeremy inquired about trustees sharing email addresses for public comment
- A trustee email address has been set up for the public to send comments
- An inquiry was made to share a letter from the Olmstead biographers
- Marti thanked the board for their willingness to work on committees to get work done – “many hands make light work”

There was no further new business.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

Next meeting: May 19, 2022 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Todd, acting secretary