Camden Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of April 21, 2022 meeting, via zoom


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, ¼ 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

- 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, 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

- 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

Parks

- 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

- 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

- 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 5:20 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Todd, acting secretary