

Camden Public Library Board of Trustees Minutes of the Meeting of November 18, 2021, via Zoom

In Attendance:

Penny Abbott, Lynne Annis, Silvio Calabi, John Fitzgerald, Susan Fitzgerald, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Pat Jones, Elinor Klivans, Nikki Maounis, Colin Page, Betsy Perry, Jeremy Pratt, Marc Ratner, Sarah Serafini, Kristen Smith, Susan Todd, and Marti Wolfe

Absent: Ken Gardiner

Greeting: Pat Jones, President of the Board, opened the meeting at 4:00. Pat gave a special thanks to Colin Page and Kirsten of Page Gallery for the successful art-fundraising exhibit and silent auction to benefit the Library.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Minutes from the October 20, 2021 Board of Trustees meeting were unanimously approved. Minutes from the October 20, 2021 Executive Session of the Board of Trustees also unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report: Nikki Maounis

Covid case: The staff member with a breakthrough Covid case has recovered and is back to work. All other staff have tested negative.

Page Gallery Silent Auction: The Gallery event and silent auction at Page Gallery was a great success. There was a good turn out for the event and all items were sold. Two prints sold twice. Sixteen thousand dollars was raised for the Library.

Reading Room: Use of the Reading Room is back to normal in terms of staffing, and the front door is now open for patrons. Usage is up and down. The hat and mitten tree is going back in front of the Palladian window.

Sunday Hours: Beginning on January 2nd, 2022, from 1pm to 5pm the Library will be open on Sundays. Two staff members will be on the main floor and the camera will monitor the Reading Room.

Annual Appeal and Millay Renewal: About 500 annual appeal letters and 45 Millay renewal letters are ready to mail. The theme: When we look to the future; we see hope. The cover photo depicts the first event held in the Amphitheatre in June of 1931. This was the High School graduation. The inside highlights the library resources and services of today such as books programs social media etc. The annual appeal goal is \$185K. This is the same as last year. Personal notes on Millay renewal letters have been added by Susan Todd. Several comments were made that this is indeed an excellent practice.

Programs: Nikki commented that the number of folks attending programs hosted by the Camden Public Library is commensurate with that of Portland and Bangor.

Finance Committee: John Fitzgerald

John shared information regarding the Wipfli review of fiscal year 2021. Overall the review showed consistency when compared to the prior fiscal year in terms of Net Positions. The exception is Investment Income which shows an increase. Program revenue is down slightly. A full audit will occur in the summer of 2022. Next, the October Financials were explained. October showed the same trend as prior months, some areas are in the red, but the fiscal year numbers are still in the black. A healthy bounce back to positive numbers should follow the annual appeal. Books sales have helped tremendously, over 21K already this fiscal year. The art sale brought in 16K, also very helpful. The wedding income for summer 2022 is looking very good. Costs of sea wall repair and carpet cleaning, a little over \$7,000 put a dent in October

numbers. Some discussion related to parks followed John's report. It was clarified that line 6810 covers anyone who is paid to work in the parks. A question related to ADA compliance and the financial implications was brought forward. After a bit of discussion, Jeremy Pratt offered to help find an answer to what is required in terms of ADA requirements if Harbor Park is altered.

Nominating Committee: Elinor Klivans

Elinor shared the slate of officers to be presented in January 2022. She clarified that anyone can be nominated from the floor.

January slate:

President, Pat Jones

Vice-president, Silvio Calabi

Treasurer, John Fitzgerald

Secretary, Susan Todd (January to June)

June slate:

President, Silvio Calabi

Vice President TBD

Treasurer, John Fitzgerald

Secretary, Marti Wolfe

On December 9th, two possible new Trustees, Natalie Travia and Jennifer Gromada, will meet with some of the members of the Nomination Committee. Both candidates have been active with the Library and have expressed interest in joining the Board of Trustees.

Harbor Park Special Committee: Silvio shared that Alison McKellar, select board member, suggested that the

Library Trustees who met in the park in August of 2021, get together with Town officials to talk about designs and ideas. Discussion ensued, and it became evident that there are new drawings to share with the Library. Marti suggested that the core group who wrote the Harbor Park Special Committee Statement in March of 2021 continue their good work on this issue. The original members are as follows: Silvio Calabi, John Fitzgerald, Ken Gross, Dave Jackson, Pat Jones, Nikki Maounis, Dennis McGuirk, and Kristen Smith, and Susan Todd. Marc Ratner is working to arrange a panel type of discussion with experts from the field to help educate the public about the Megunticook River and Montgomery Dam projects.

Facility and Parks: Ken Gross and Dave Jackson

Dave began by explaining that the lawn in the Amphitheatre took a beating last summer when a tent covered the area for almost a week, and it received a lot of foot traffic as well. A lawn company from Belfast has aerated the soil, and will add lime and compost to help rejuvenate the lawn. Bay Chambers will rent the Amphitheatre once again for the Screen Door Concerts. They will pay a rental fee between \$10 and \$12K for the Amphitheatre. It's great to have a crowd, but hard on the lawn. Ken reported that the new HVAC system is functioning as it should. It will be months before we see a savings. Rain has caused some leaks in new places: mechanical room and History Center. These followed the 5" to 6" inch rainstorm and appear to be foundational. The other new area of water was at the bottom of the stairs vs. on the stairs. Nikki's office and the Children's room also had leaks, these are repeats. The radiant heat has been great for drying the carpet where leaks have occurred.

New Business:

Pat thanked Betsy for her help with the October Board meeting. Marc complimented the Library on the Pumpkin Palooza and scavenger hunt arranged by Miss Amy.

Meeting adjourned 5:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Marti Wolfe

Secretary, Camden Public Library Board of Trustees