

DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
July 13, 2023
6:00 PM
Youth Services Room, Dighton Town Hall

This meeting was a hybrid meeting and open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing platform.

Call to Order Trustee Meeting Started at 6:03 PM

This was a hybrid meeting with adequate and accessible access through Zoom.

Roll Call – In-person participants: Ron O’Connor, Chair; Rita Araujo, trustee; Ann Meitzen, trustee; Jocelyn Tavares, library director

With a virtual meeting, a roll call vote should be taken, so that it is absolutely clear what the outcome of the vote is. The meeting must be completely audible. The meeting is recorded.

The pledge of allegiance was recited.

Rita moved to approve the minutes of June 8. Ann seconded.

Ron O’Connor: Aye
Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Motion carries.

Old Business

- Update on 207 Main Street:
 - Town Administrator updated Jocelyn on procurement efforts for an on-call electrician and plumber for the town, as well as for architectural services. Project Budget will be updated to plan for a new Library Building Committee meeting.
 - Will schedule time with the Mass Cultural Council to discuss the Facilities grant.

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New Business

- Statistics: Year-end: Library finished higher over last fiscal year, and the library is off to a good start for this fiscal year. We are hopefully returning to trends the library saw prior to covid. Looking for different ways to display comparison. Electronic resources have new metrics to mimic ARIS - specific statistics. Re-evaluation of a few resources to reinvest that funding to ebook and audiobook collections. Ron noted the importance of diversity of options, which appears to be the case in the electronic resources.
- ARIS: The state statistical report is open, it is a requirement to participate in state aid program. Looking to complete the August meeting and present.
- Donation Received: Discussed \$75 donation from Dighton resident and agreed to place in the Library Gift Account. Jocelyn will send acknowledgement. There was no stipulation on spending.

Ann moved to accept the donation of \$75.00 and to deposit it into the Library Gift Account. Rita seconded.

Ron O’Connor: Aye

Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Motion carries.

- Pearl Crawford Library, Dudley: Jocelyn sent the email from the Director of the Pearl Crawford Library. It seems that there is an approved budget from the library. The operating budget was cut by 10%, with layoffs. There is a special town meeting on July 24, 2023 that will lead to an override vote in August. There are five different questions that the town can pick which services to fund, if any. This is to overcome an almost \$1 million shortfall due to school funding. Jocelyn felt it should be watched as a learning opportunity. Jocelyn also noted they are in a newer building that was partially funded with State Construction funds.
- Massachusetts Library System (MLS), Massachusetts Library Association (MLA), Massachusetts School Library Association (MSLA), Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) Joint Statement against Censorship: This statement was issued due to the increase in book challenges in Massachusetts. There is also a way for people who support the statement to endorse it.

Ron asked if we knew how many challenges there were in Massachusetts. Challenges quadrupled over the last year in the state. There is potential legislation tying state aid funding to censorship.

Ron felt statements like this help to strengthen this board's position. Ron asked if we are required to abide by the statement. Jocelyn thought the intent was that these bodies were standing in solidarity with the state's libraries and librarians who are trying to uphold the First Amendment principles, while having those difficult discussions with patrons. The proposed legislation seems to be similar in intent to the Illinois language. Ron sees an opportunity to pull out statements from the document to highlight.

Questions/Input Friends

- Update from Zachary Lapointe wasn't available but he wanted to discuss the golf tournament.
- Golf fundraiser, September 17 at Hazelton Golf Club. Rita mentioned they were publicizing the event, looking for sponsors and donations. There have been offers to volunteer. There are also tickets for just the dinner.

Personnel Correspondence Upcoming Programs

- Discussed the upcoming programs and summer reading. It was the first full week of summer reading and it started with the tie-dye teddy bear program. Discussed the bird walks at area parks. Knock on Wood concert was the following week and a Dighton Cultural Council grant funded program. Nurse Nikki's book group is a new book discussion group.

Adjournment

Ann moved to adjourn. Rita seconded.

Ron O'Connor: Aye
Rita Araujo: Aye
Ann Meitzen: Aye
Motion carries.

Meeting adjourned at 6:39.

Documents Referenced:

Minutes

Statistics

Email regarding Pearl Crawford Library

Joint Statement from MLS, MLA, MSLA and MBLC