

**Wellesley Free Library
Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Monday, February 13, 2023
7:00 PM
Online Remote Meeting**

Present: Ann Howley, Vice Chair; Ann Rappaport, Secretary; Maura Murphy, Diane Savage, Linshi Li; Jamie Jurgensen, Library Director; Jeannette DiBiase, Office Administrator; Keith Higgins, WFL Foundation President; Ann-Mara Lanza, Select Board and DEI Presenter; Diane Stoddard, Paul Merry, Melinda Arias-Voci, Glen Kim, DEI Presenters

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting Called to order at 7:00 PM

CITIZEN COMMENT

None

ITEM

1. Minutes

Diane S. moved (Ann R. seconded) to approve the minutes of January 9, 2023 as amended.

2. Director's Report

Jamie gave the Trustees an update on the past month's library programs and events. To celebrate Black History Month (February), the Library has scheduled programming and displays on both floors. The Library has partnered with the Climate Action Committee and Wellesley High School students who created displays of Wellesley's Climate Action Plan for the Commons area. Cara Rothman has been working with the students from the WHS Evolutions program, focusing on marketing Library resources to WHS students. The Evolutions students created a series of three "commercials" introducing Hoopla, Libby and Great Courses that were featured in their Youtube Friday announcements. The Library has received 37 submissions for its Flash Fiction contest from both students and adults and the winning submissions will be added to the Short Story Dispenser, donated by Gordon and Mary Ford Kingsley. Jamie also mentioned that some of the rooms in the library are being repainted and an HVAC vendor will be working on fixing some of the HVAC issues in the Main Library building over the next few weeks.

3. Foundation and Friends Update

Keith Higgins gave an update from the Foundation. The Foundation is very pleased with the results of their Annual Appeal and has been hard at work on the planning of their May event, "Books In Bloom". Keith gave a brief overview of the event and indicated

that printed invitations will go out in another month or so, with 200 to 250 attendees expected. The Foundation submitted an application to allow alcohol to be served in the Library at the “Books in Bloom” event. They also requested that the Library close at 5:00 pm on Friday, May 12 to set up the event, an hour earlier than usual.

Diane S. moved (Ann R. seconded) to support the closing of the Library on Friday, May 12 at 5:00 pm. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

Ann R. moved (Diane S. seconded) to approve the Foundation’s application to serve alcohol at the “Books In Bloom” event in the Library. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

The Friends of the Wellesley Free Library are holding a two “Donation Days” in the Wakelin Room on February 12 and 13. Donations are also being accepted during open hours at the Main Library at the Friends Bookshop on the first floor.

4. DEI Presentation

Members of the Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Task Force – Ann-Mara Lanza, Diane Stoddard, Paul Merry, Melinda Arias-Voci, and Glen Kim – made a presentation to the Trustees, describing the history and mission of the DEI Task Force and the proposed Wellesley Equity Audit. They are asking for voted Library Trustee support of Article 17 at this year’s Annual Town Meeting which proposes an Anti-Racism and Anti-Bias Resolution and requests funding to carry out the Equity Audit. At the conclusion of the presentation, the Trustees were given time to ask questions. Ann H. thanked the DEI Task Force members for their time and told them the Trustees will bring this issue back at their next meeting, as is common practice with items requiring a vote.

5. Strategic Plan Update

Jamie gave a brief update on the work being done on the Strategic Plan and handed out a draft of the proposed Mission, Vision and Values statements. She also mentioned that the consultant from Creative Disruption is no longer working with the SPC but that the SPC felt confident that the Strategic Plan would be successfully completed with some additional help from other consultants used by the Library on the previous Strategic Plan. The Trustees reviewed and discussed the proposed Mission, Vision and Values statements. Ann H. thanked the Trustees who are part of SPC for their time devoted to this project.

Diane S. moved (Ann R. seconded) that the Mission, Vision and Values be accepted as presented. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

Ann R. presented the process for developing the Strategic Plan and the SOAR (Strengths, Opportunities, Aspirations, Results) method for gathering input. The Trustees then engaged in a SOAR exercise utilizing a “Jam Board” which was facilitated by Jamie and Ann R. . Jamie mentioned that individual interviews are the next step in the process. All

Interviews will be finished and results collected by March 10. The SPC will meet in March to assemble the components of the Plan and analyze the survey, interview and focus group results. The Trustees expect to review a draft of the Strategic Plan at their April meeting.

6. Gift Acceptance

Since the Town Hall is closing for renovations, a Town Hall project team subgroup has recommended to the Select Board that two pieces of art depicting Library buildings (one of the former Main Library building and the other of the Hills Branch) be offered to the Trustees prior to being released to the Historical Society. The Select Board reviewed the items and accepted the recommendation that the pieces be offered to the Library Trustees to place in the Library for all to enjoy.

Diane S. motioned (Ann R. seconded) to accept the two paintings from the Select Board. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

An anonymous check donation for \$50 has been received.

Ann R. moved (Diane S. seconded) to accept the anonymous check donation of \$50 to be deposited in the Director's Fund. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

7. New Business

None.

8. Additional Topics

None.

MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ann H. moved (Ann R. seconded) to go into Executive Session to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiation and not to reconvene in open session. The Trustees were polled individually and the motion was approved unanimously.

Ann R. moved (Diane S. seconded) to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 Executive Session minutes. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

Ann R. moved (Diane S. seconded) to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 Executive session minutes. The Trustees polled individually, unanimously approved the motion.

The next Trustee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 7:15 pm in the Arnold Room.

ADJOURNMENT

Ann H. moved (Diane S. seconded) to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Rappaport, Secretary, WFL Board of Trustees

Date: _____

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- 1: Minutes
- 2: Foundation Alcohol Request
- 3: DEI Presentation
- 4: DEI Article 17
- 5: Strategic Plan (Mission, Vision, Values)
- 6: Art Gift Acceptance Request