

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BERKLEY LIBRARY MINUTES

March 12, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Carla Ross-Lyman, Trustee Paula Dugan, Trustee Megan Silva, Library Director Carol Buote, Friends of the Library President Catherine Charette, and Secretary Linda Andrade Rodrigues. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, April 9, 2024.

The Meeting Minutes of February 20, 2024 was read, amended and approved. Paula Dugan motioned, Megan Silva seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT

Erica Grady submitted a report from February 20 to March 12. They have been busy this month with an estimated 150 visitors to the Children's Room. They also hosted 12 programs and events as follows:

Weekly Storytimes with 14 attendees who enjoyed stories, simple crafts and games during the program, as well as meeting new families;

Weekly VolunTEENS programs with 21 participants;

Bi-weekly Writing Circle programs with 30 participants. This group continues to grow and thoroughly enjoy the program;

Craft Night with 9 participants. VolunTEENS also assisting with crochet and friendship bracelets;

Pokemon Club with 18 participants with 6 attendees. This program continues to be popular, and the kids love bingo;

PACE Play & Learn with 18 participants. Miss Idalina visited, and they all had fun with crafts.

The Winter Reading Program has wrapped up with 21 participants who read a collective 21,000 minutes and redeemed 350 raffle tickets. Four happy raffle winners won a LEGO set.

The Library has partnered with FREE trees for kids with Neighborhood Forest, a non-profit that will send free saplings for all who register. They have 72 registered so far with a registration date ending March 15.

Their Virtual Reality resources are popular. They are loaning out two of the older units and loaning in-house the two newest headsets. Thirteen borrows so far.

3D Printing Club had 8 attendees. They are grateful for Angela who volunteers her time for this club.

The guessing jar winner took home 247 Hershey's kisses.

The newsletter went out March 1 to 115 subscribers, and marketing continues to be created across the board.

Juvenile and Young Adult materials circulation was 599 items in December, 933 items in January, and 1,034 items in February. They have placed orders for Juvenile and Young Adult books for the month of March.

They have also purchased a new web-based learning product called Education Station. "Education Station content is created by a team of experienced and passionate educators from across the United States. The Education Station team is committed to inspiring joyful learning and supporting kids, teachers, and parents." This is available for Berkley patrons with a barcode beginning in 23578. Information has been posted on social media and their website. Bookmarks are also being handed out.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the March 7 book club meeting, 3 attendees met to discuss *Run Rose Run* by Dolly Parton and James Patterson. They selected *The Thread Collectors* by

Shaunna Edwards and Alyson Richman for the April meeting. This book can be used for the Mass Center for the Book reading challenge as well.

The adult book displays this month are “Luck is Finding the Perfect Book” with a green St. Patrick’s Day theme, “Women’s History Month” and “Center for the Book Reading Challenge”.

The Knot Just Knitting meetings in February had 17 participants

The Podcast and Craft group met on February 21 with 2 attendees.

Virtual Trivia also met on February 17 with 33 attendees.

Carol Buote attended the Library Visioning Forum, a Construction Grant meeting with the consultant, a Town Department Head meeting, and Library Aware Training. She also attended Libby training on how to train our patrons and will provide patron training in the future. She also attended the Legislative Breakfast at the Westport Library.

For the Construction Grant process, Carol Buote prepared for their first forum, created a simple survey for those who do not attend one of the forums, and added a page to their website with information.

Carol Buote presented the FY25 budget to the Finance Committee on February 26.

FRIENDS’ REPORT

The new President of the Friends of the Berkley Library, Cathy Charette, presented a brief report, noting that this is a new year for them with a whole new executive board. Their Treasurer is Leisel Sullivan and Secretary Alycia Ferrini. Their priority is and will continue to be recruiting new members. With more members and volunteers, they can and will be able to plan and execute fundraisers to support the library. They had their first event on March 2, Mocktails and Appetizers, which invited people to come and meet Friends and consider joining their group. With the help of Carol, their director, pamphlets and stickers were printed to hand out, describing what they do as Friends. Going

forward, they invite anyone wishing to join their group to reach out to Cathy or any of the Friends at FriendsoftheBerkleyLibrary@gmail.com

NEW LIBRARY/BUILDING PROJECT

The Trustees conducted a Visioning session, a stream of consciousness list to map out plans for the future of a new Library, answering the question: “What three things would you like to see at our Library?” They answered: a large meeting space for the community, a cozy seating area with couches, adequate workspace, a room to mend books and do cataloguing that is not in the public areas, office space for the children’s librarian, display space, a programming room, lactation space, non-gendered bathrooms with child-size fixtures, storage space for craft supplies, meeting space for Scouts and other groups, a safe place for kids to do homework and where they can go to snack, a safe place for teens to hang out and socialize, cozy areas with funky chairs that kids like, board games, TV, and a room for the Friends of the Library where they can open a gift shop.

ADJOURN

Megan Silva made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., and Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Andrade Rodrigues

