

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BERKLEY LIBRARY MINUTES

August 8, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Carla Ross-Lyman, Trustee Paula Dugan, Trustee Megan Silva, Library Director Carol Buote, Friends of the Library President Danielle Nicolet and Secretary Linda Andrade Rodrigues. The next meeting date was set for Tuesday, September 12, 2023.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2023 was read, amended and approved. Megan Silva motioned, Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT

Erica Grady submitted a report from July 11 to August 8, 2023. There were approximately 272 visitors to the Children's Room this period. They also held the following programs and events:

3 Story Times with 22 attendees who read books and created crafts about worms, trees and alligators. Story Times will take a break for the month of August and return in September. Erica Grady has reached out to Bristol Plymouth's early education department and Somerset Berkley's English department, inviting incoming seniors to work with the library on their senior projects;

3 VolunTEENS programs with 15 attendees visit on Tuesdays and have been busy shelving books, prepping crafts, creating friendships, mentoring and assisting with

younger patrons. They also have started discussions around running the Spooky Pumpkin Walk again this year with a tentative date of Friday, October 27;

1 LEGO Night with 37 attendees, a program that continues to be popular, and they are meeting new families at each event;

2 Writing Circles with 11 participants, a fun and engaging endeavor. Jess leads the group in writing prompts and sharing their work.

The Intro to Tarot program held on July 12 with Laura Campagna was fun and educational. Thirteen participants learned about and practiced Tarot outside under the tent. This was a Cultural Council grant, and the paperwork for payment has been submitted.

The Henna Alchemy program held on August 3 with Mandy from Wicked Good Henna was a success with 18 participants and a wait list. They learned about natural Henna, made their own and received beautiful Henna art by Mandy for each participant. This was also a Cultural Council grant, and the paperwork has been submitted.

The Animal World Experience with Matt Gabriel was a huge hit on August 5 with 311 attendees! Matt keeps the entire crowd entertained for 2-plus hours with exotic animals. This was presented and paid for by the library. They will work to bring Matt back.

A newsletter went out August 1 reaching 106 people, and marketing continues to be created across the board.

The guessing jar winner was happy this month with winning 31 peppermint patty treats. The August jar holds Hershey kisses.

Summer reading runs through August 5th, and participants will start collecting their prizes. They will pull the raffle winners on August 19. They have received donations for raffle prizes from Somerset Creamery, TreeTop Adventures, Picture Show and many patron donations.

The SAILS network statistics show July had 1,046 juvenile and 81 young adult checkouts.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the July Book Club meeting, 6 attendees met on July 13 to discuss *Night Shift* by Robin Cook; and for the August Book Club meeting, 7 attendees met on August 3 to discuss *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen. For the September meeting, they will discuss *The Second Mrs. Astor* by Shana Abe. The Not Just Knitting groups met in July with 12 attendees.

On August 9, the library will offer a Hemp Wellness program presented by Rena Raggiani.

Their current adult book displays are about Historical Fiction and Beach Reads.

For meetings and trainings, Carol Buote attended a Workplace Discrimination and Harassment training on July 18, a Department Head meeting on July 25, and a SAILS Executive Director group interview of a candidate on August 2. They will have a new SAILS Executive Director soon.

The Highway Department agreed to help the library staff to remove the cypress tree (the large lime green shrub) that is overgrown. They will plan to do this in the fall.

For the yearly ARIS Report, Carol Buote finished filling it out. Next is the Financial Report.

A patron participated in a kick-starter program to help publish a book called *Black Baseball in Living Color* by Jay Caldwell with artwork by Graig Kreindler. The library received a copy as part of the program.

Staff has been taking vacations, and Carol Buote has had to spend time on circulation and tech services.

FRIENDS' REPORT

The Friends of the Library held Touch A Truck on July 15. Even with unpredictable weather, it was a good time. The kids enjoyed seeing and touching the trucks and jumping in the giant puddle in the parking lot.

For the month of August, they will be collecting cans and bottles at the transfer station.

They will be participating in the COA Vendor Fair on September 16 and will have books and Friends' merchandise, such as mugs, bags and notecards, available.

They will also be hosting a Cocktail Tasting with Bristol County Wine and Spirits on September 17 from 4 to 6 p.m. Tickets are \$30 each and are on sale now at the library. Limited quantities are available.

Unfortunately, they still do not have a resolution to the issues with the Venmo account.

They are also actively looking for new members to help the Friends with events and fundraisers to benefit the library.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Board of Trustees discussed and updated the Use of Library Facilities Policy. Paula Dugan motioned to accept the Use of Library Facilities Policy as is rewritten. Megan Silva seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE

 Paula Dugan AYE

 Megan Silva AYE

BUILDING PROJECT UPDATE

Regarding the formation of the Building Committee, Paula Dugan encouraged the Board to get more people involved in the process. Consequently, they compiled a list of 12 interested people to be appointed to the Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Boy Scouts sent a letter of thanks to the library, where they host some of their meetings. "We appreciate your support," they wrote. All the Scouts signed the letter.

ADJOURN

Megan Silva made a motion to adjourn at 8:25 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