

Plymouth Public Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 22, 2023
6 pm

Present: Bill Petrillo, President (via Zoom); Patti Anklam, John DelCampo, Deb Etzel, Treasurer; Judy Fosdick, Vice President; Howard Gorney, Jeff Grossman, Katherine Kowaloff; Bev Ness; Staff: Anne Phelan, PPLF Director, Debbie D'Isabel, PPLF Manager, Katie Kearney, Event Coordinator (via Zoom) Kelsey Casey, Library Director
Absent: Stephanie Fry, Svetlana Lyons, Erica Tavares, Kate Gomes, Assistant Library Director

Due to the fact that President Petrillo attended the meeting via Zoom, Vice President, Judy Fosdick led the meeting.

6:01 pm Public Comment

Judy Fosdick, Vice President called the meeting to order. Noting no members of the public present, Judy proceeded with the PPLF Board of Trustees meeting.

President's Remarks

President Bill thanked Deb Etzel who continues to work with Senator Susan Moran to recognize the Library's Literacy Program. Deb will also be in touch with Matt Muratore and Kathy LaNotra so that all our state representatives play a part in the commendation. Deb is working the Senator Moran's community outreach person. The decision was to present this at the Literacy Program's Annual Graduation Ceremony. Senator Moran is asking for the date that the program started.

6:05 pm

Report of the Clerk

Vice President Fosdick asked for a motion to accept the minutes from last month's meeting.

MOTION: Deb Etzel made a motion to accept the minutes from the January 25, 2023 PPLF Board of Trustees meeting as presented. Bev Ness, second. All in favor.

6:10 pm

Director's Report, Kelsey Casey, Director

- Kelsey asked if folks had a chance to watch the Advisory Committee meeting on the 25th and provide a brief summary. Post covid, the Library has had some funds in the salary reserve line item and when a position was filled the money came from this fund. Recommendation, as presented at the Advisory Committee meeting, will be presented at Town Meeting in April. We are all set with MAR and will not need to request a waiver this year.
- If you wish to view the Select board presentation, please use the link Kelsey provided in her Director's Report.
- Kate and Kelsey had a great time in New Orleans and attended all sessions that were not being recorded in an effort to cover the most ground.
- They are researching grant opportunities similar to those available at the New Orleans Public Library for their Teen Maker's Space. This space was a collaboration with Best Buy and a Boston-based based company. Kelsey put our Library on the list and will follow-up.
- The Library staff is participating in the Jordan Hospital Club (BID) Polar Plunge. Kelsey welcomed the Board's participation – either by financial pledge or physical presence!

- This year's Yarn Pop is underway – knitters are furiously working away. The theme is Plymouth's Natural Resources and, in an effort, to be sustainable, Library knitters are creating squares that will be turned in blankets and eventually donated. This is a wonderful way to use leftover wool too!

6:15 pm

Assistant Director's Report

Kelsey presented Kate Gome's report in her absence.

- Tom Cummiskey has been hired as the new Adult Services Librarian – leaving the Outreach Librarian position open.
- Sherrin Sholes has announced her departure (March 8) and the job has been posted internally. Kelsey is confident there will be internal candidates.
- Board expressed concern about the open Outreach Librarian position.
- Mulching of the area around the new Community Garden is finished.
- Kate is working on a Fix-It Clinic with Sustainable Plymouth.
- A boy scout, working to achieve Eagle Scout status has proposed a project to protect our new fruit trees and add signage to same. This project will commence shortly.
- The theme for this year's Summer Reading program is ALL TOGETHER NOW – kindness and friendship.

6:20

Literacy Committee Report

In Maria's absence Deb directed everyone's attention to the Kristen Enos' request that we amend that language attributed to our work to raise funds for the Fund-A-Scholar program due to the fact that – at least for the time being – the Commonwealth of Massachusetts will cover the cost for all students wishing to take the tests for their GED/HiSet.

MOTION: Deb Etzel made a motion that the Board define the Fund-A-Scholar program to cover the cost for any tests that aid a student's desire to advance their education and/or career. Bev Ness second. All in favor.

6:22 pm

Preservation Committee

Judy Fosdick reported that with all of the staff changes, the Preservation Committee will lose Julie Burrey's assistance for the near term. The committee will continue our work; Patti and Ruth on eBay book sales, Ruth and Bev on the vertical file and Judy and Katherine on the OCM exhibit. This exhibit will explore the loss of news coverage and how it affects democracy. Committee members will also try to assist Julie with research requests.

6:28 pm

Facilities Committee

Judy Fosdick provided an update on plans for the Shiff Garden fundraising initiative. Judy gave kudos to Kelsey and Kate on the mulch move! Unfortunately, Judy hasn't had a chance to update the garden redesign estimates and will her best to have some information next month. Judy understands that folks working on the Community Garden have ordered seeds by the thousands and are working to choose which will go into the new garden beds. The team will be working to organize their team of volunteers. Jackie from Terra-Curra is taking the lead.

6:32 pm

Old Business

Bill Petrillo reported that he is looking for some guidance. We are continuing to explore the idea of installing a sound studio in the Bongiovanni Room. However, it looks like the project will cost more than we anticipated. Bill went on to say that the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is advertising a session intended to train people to write for capital construction grants and he was wondering if this might provide some financial assistance. Kelsey noted that although the MBLC does fund some room modifications, their priority is usually the creation of new spaces.

Judy asked if we have done any research to ascertain our patrons' level of interest in such a space. Perhaps a survey to ask about the sound studio, a teen space and/or makers space and the garden plans.

6:36 pm

New Business

Deb Etzel reported that she recently attended a meeting about legal issues surrounding the use of meeting space. Apparently, a few libraries have recently been sued. Deb wanted the Board to be aware of such issues and suggested that we take another look at our meeting room policies. Kelsey noted that we only allow booking three months in advance.

TO DO: Revisit the Meeting Room Space Policy.

6:40pm

Adjourn

MOTION: Katherine Kowaloff made a motion to adjourn the Feb 22, 2023 meeting of the PPL Board of Trustees. Jeff Grossman second. All in favor.

Submitted by:
Anne C. Phelan
Feb. 22, 2023