

Corrected &
Accepted
4/20/21

MEETING OF THE MONTEREY LIBRARY TRUSTEES
Held via teleconference call
March 8, 2021

PRESENT Via Phone: Ann Canning, Shannon Castille,
Esther Heffernan, John Higgins, Mickey Jervas
and Lisa Smyle
Library Director: Mark Makuc
Absent: No One

Meeting was called to order 7:02pm.

MINUTES: The minutes of February 8, 2021 were corrected and accepted by motion made by Ann and seconded by Lisa. A roll call vote was taken and received a unanimous affirmative vote.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The second vendor for the gas fireplace visited the library and submitted a bid. The gas inspector is being consulted to be sure we get everything correct.

Mark is working with the electrician about the needed added lighting.

Mock-ups of the plaques will be here soon. Mark will inform the Trustees when they are here so they can review them.

We should have some deck furniture out this year. Mark would like to discuss with the Friends to see if they will undertake the search, if that is agreeable to the Trustees. Other than Ann reminding us that the chairs should be ADA compliant, the Trustees agreed that we should have some seating outside and it would be good to have the Friends involved.

An ad-hoc Covid-19 vaccination appointment support group has been working at the library Thursday afternoons, 12-4. They are making a difference. They have made some appointments, have walked people through the process if they call in, and have eased some concerns. Mark put a sandwich board out so people know about this service. A reporter from the Eagle called and spoke to one of the volunteers, he said this is the one group that has a place for people to go to get help.

The Board of Health informed Mark that capacity limits for the library are now up to 40%. When we instituted our

Covid-19 plan we authorized a 20% [18 person] limit. Mark was approached by Gould Farm, who have completed vaccination of all staff and guests, asking if they could start making trips to the library again. To that end, and in view of the governor's current guidelines, Mark would like to increase our capacity by a few more people, say 5 or so. A motion was made by Ann, seconded by Lisa, to increase capacity to 25%, adding 4-5 more visitors at a time. After some discussion a roll call vote was taken which resulted in unanimous approval of the increase.

Summer performers have been in contact with Mark letting him know that they are adapting their programs to working outside.

The Friends of Lake Garfield have withdrawn their request for use of space for processing their water tests. They will be working out of BCC.

The Berkshire Legislative Breakfast, which was held at the Monterey Library last year, will be held on Friday, March 12th. This year's breakfast will be held as an all Zoom event. The legislators who attend will have breakfast delivered to them.

We have received State Aid approval and will be receiving \$1,424.22 as the first half payment soon.

At a first look the budget appears to be in good shape for us to continue with the current extended hours through the end of this fiscal year. If we are short, this will be a good use of State Aid funds.

This has been a tough winter with a lot of small snow and ice storms. The Town crew has done an excellent job in keeping the library parking area open and safe. We thank them, and will send them a note to let them all know how appreciative we, and all the patrons, are for their diligence.

We have not had any direct contact with the Select Board or Finance Committee since we presented our figures in January and still do not know if any changes will be requested.

Right now, there are three people interested in running for the two library positions up for vote at the town elections

in May. One wanted to sit in the library to collect signatures. Mark didn't know if it was legal or not but did ask him to move outside. Mark had been surprised to see lawn signs at town hall and the transfer station last year. To confirm the legality, he left word for the town clerk to get her opinion. The trustees were not sure if it was legal, but several felt it would make them uncomfortable to go to the library and have someone asking for signatures, especially for a trustees' position. Mark agreed and definitely does not want anyone to ever feel uncomfortable in the library. The trustees agreed that they do not want signature collecting at the library.

Mark wanted us to know that he is aware that six Dr. Seuss books will no longer be published due to "hurtful or wrong imagery" in accordance with the wishes of Dr. Seuss Enterprises. This has caused a lot of conversation among local librarians, both pro and con. There is the question of censorship and how many other books in any library might contain materials that some might consider insensitive. In an interview the ALA stated that they were opposed to censorship. Mark reminded us that we have two policies, adopted in 2004, that address material selection and patron challenges to materials. These policies should be reviewed. John suggested having a sub-committee review all policies over the summer months.

CHAIR REPORT: John reported on progress made by the director evaluation sub-committee and had distributed a written report for the trustees to review. It involves a four step process that takes place over the year and the steps taken at each. These were taken from the MBLC Handbook and may require editing for our small library. The trustees will each review and advise John before the next meeting. John will also work with Mark on the goals aspect of the evaluation.

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm by motion made by Lisa and seconded by Shannon.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, April 12, 2021 7:00pm

Agenda: Minutes

Friends Report

Director's Report including budget

Annual Town Meeting

Director Evaluation Sub-committee report

Submitted by: Mickey Jervas, Secretary