

RANDALL LIBRARY TRUSTEES MEETING – October 5, 2021

Attendees: Maureen Busch, Marcy Eckel, Morgan Hillman, Andy Riecker, Marianne Sharin, Maura Sieller, Barbie Wolfenden

Also in attendance:

Library Director: Tina McAndrew

Friends Representatives: Lisa Lavina, Kathleen Pavelchek

Call to Order 6:30 PM

1. No public Comments

2. Review and Approval of Previous Minutes

- Maureen moved to approve the amended minutes. Maura seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Chair's Report (Marcy)

No comments at this time.

4. Treasurer's Report (Maureen)

Maureen sent an email to Bartholomew re closing the old checking account; she wrote to Fidelity for the status of the new account.

5. Director's Report (Tina)

Tina collected the signs regarding renovation that were placed at 8 locations in town; she sent 87 responses to the survey to the Building Committee. (The following information includes the **Old Business** topic regarding the Building Committee.)

A. Building Committee/Stakeholder Meeting update

- DesignLab presented three landscaping and five building designs that boil down to the following options:
 1. Building stays as is, with work to bring it into electrical, environmental, etc. compliance
 2. Building is improved with the same footprint
 3. Building expands with new footprint

B. Fundraising discussion ensued among Trustees re Trustee role

- MBLC says that Trustees can raise funds vs. State Ethics committee prohibiting fundraising by Trustees but allowing advocacy. **See New Business.**
- All agreed there is a need to set expectations as to costs.

6. Community Outreach (Maura)

- Maura met with the Cultural Council for a discussion on collaborating possibilities with the library. The Council proposed the library host a rotating art exhibit; they have set aside funds for the possibility. Tina and others support the idea. No action taken at this time.
- Marcy revisited the idea of "ambassadors" for other town organizations, e.g., COA, Historical Commission, etc. Several people volunteered to continue the outreach.

7. New Business

- Marcy sent out an MBLC podcast that confirmed Trustees can raise funds, as long as they file appropriate forms regarding financial transactions. Yet the Office of Politics and Finance declared Trustees can advocate but not fund-raise. Issues were discussed such as the fact that none of Tina's budget can be used to fund raise, and Trustees and staff may not wear a button like "Vote Yes," and the like. These conflicting directives led to lengthy discussion among the Trustees. Marcy will pursue resolution.
- Tim Reed noted that the 2nd Century Fund is committed to the entire building project and stated that the fund may be able to give a cash donation. He said he would make his donor list available.
- Kathleen Pavelchek also noted that the Hale fund will also give a cash donation.
- Lisa Lavina asked who declares the fundraising committee? Lengthy discussion followed as to Tina's role, and who pulls a group together.
- Barbie asked if the idea of hiring a professional fund raiser was raised at the Building Committee meeting. (No.) More discussion ensued on the need for a central point person to coordinate the various groups and individuals who want to work on fund raising.
- Issue was raised on the possible use of Randall trust, leading to the idea that we could elicit pledges without specific financial targets, which can't happen until future meetings of the Building Committee and decisions are made on the design and associated price tag. Marcy pointed out that funds could give an annual percentage of a total pledge, minimizing the impact on annual operations.
- Tina has been working with the Town Administrator on the issue of the Town providing more operational support of the library. The point was made by Marianne that much of the current private giving is keeping the library open but that private funding should be extra, not fundamental to operations.

8. Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 PM