

MINUTES, NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

February 23, 2021, 5:15 p.m.

Board Meeting

Attending:

Ron Miller, President

Board Members in Attendance: Joe Boyd, Laurie Chester, Bill Colson, Karen Copenhaver, Elizabeth Daniels, Alison Hankey, Anthea Lavalley, Chris McIlroy, Brenda Metzler, John Williams.

Also present: Library Director Clare McFarland.

- A quorum was present
- Minutes recorded and submitted by Alison Hankey, Secretary

Zoom Meeting

Call to Order at 5:18 PM

Opening Remarks & Announcements:

- Ron Miller has decided not to seek reelection as Board President.
- Gina McAllister has resigned from the Board.

Motion (Ron Miller)	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to formally thank Gina for her 2.5 years of service and donate a book to the library in her honor.	Joe Boyd	Laurie Chester	Approved unanimously

- Bill Colson will make the final edits to the January 21st version of the Policy Manual. He requested to send feedback/edits directly to him.
- Two library articles (7 & 13) on the March 2021 ballot: The library parking lot exemption and continued funding of library operation and maintenance.

Approval of January 26th Minutes:

Motion (Ron Miller)	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to accept the minutes of the January 26th, 2021 Board Meeting	Joe Boyd	Elizabeth Daniels	Approved unanimously

Anti-racism Learning Moment (Chris McIlroy):

- Chris discussed the book *The Color of Law: The Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America*, by Richard Rothstein

Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) Update:

- In line with other libraries across the country, ARTF Chair, Chris McIlroy, shared a conceptual framework for building an anti-racism educational resource page on the

NWPL website. Examples of other library pages: <https://www.oppl.org/about/anti-racism/>, and <https://cals.org/anti-racism/>.

- The ARTF proposed that the key priorities/actions outlined in the December 2020 ARTF report be embedded within each Board Committees' activities (e.g., Personnel/Nominating) as applicable to facilitate progress on each recommendation. A member of the ARTF will act as a resource for each Committee as needed.

Library Director's Report (Clare McFarland):

- A written report was submitted.
- The Public Library Annual Report has been submitted
- An Internet Connectivity Grant has been awarded which will provide better access to the Internet and computers.
- A subscription to self-paced online language provider, Mango (70 different languages to choose from) has been purchased for access by patrons.
- Members of the Library Consortium will vote in Spring or early Summer to replace the current OPAC system with Aspen Discovery.
- There are a host of wonderful events and programs planned through April, including: Recite, Qigong, Pysanky, Zentangle Art for the virtual Mezzanine Art Gallery, etc.
- Library staff attended over a dozen webinars and trainings in February.

Treasurer's Report (Joe Boyd):

- The library continues to be in a healthy cash position with below budget expenses and strong fundraising
- A written summary of the recent Investment Committee meeting was submitted

Committee Reports:

Personnel:

- The Personnel Committee is in the process of reviewing health insurance options for current staff and new hires.
- As The Budget Committee begins work on the new budget, they agreed to provide a recommendation as to how much of the insurance cost can be subsidized.
- The Committee is reviewing a new report from The Woodstock Community Trust on the real costs of living in Woodstock as they explore how to ensure NWPL salaries align with other libraries in the area.

Building & Grounds

- We received a quote of \$50K to refurbish the library windows. The Committee will explore applying for a grant to cover the cost.

Nominating

- Notice: Joe Boyd's first term as Trustee is expiring. The Board will initiate a vote to reelect at the March meeting.
- Recruitment of a new board member continues with one excellent candidate, recommended by another board member, going through the interview process

Development/Planned giving

- A written report was submitted
- The Development Committee will postpone the business outreach campaign in light of the impact the pandemic has had on Woodstock businesses.

Adjourn:

Motion (Ron Miller)	1st	2nd	Vote
Motion to adjourn at 7:02 pm	John Williams	Chris McIlroy	Passed Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Hankey, Secretary March 8th, 2021