

MINUTES, NORMAN WILLIAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

March 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, 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 5:17 PM

Opening Remarks & Announcements:

- None

Approval of February 23, 2021 Minutes:

Motion (Ron Miller)	1 st	2 nd	Vote
Motion to accept the minutes of the February, 2021 Board Meeting with amendments	Joe Boyd	Laurie Chester	Approved unanimously

Anti-racism Learning Moment (Laurie Chester):

- Laurie Chester presented the concept of Critical Race Theory, important as a lens through which to view both critics and supporters of anti-racism. The Board appreciated Laurie's thorough preparation and discussion.

Library Director's Report (Clare McFarland):

- A written report was submitted
- Search has begun for a new Children's Librarian. The job will be promoted and through the VTLIB listserv so libraries throughout the state will be aware of the position. The hope is to have the role filled by August
- The library has purchased a Philips Heartstart Defibrillator to be installed on the main floor just outside the elevator. The staff will have certified CPR training either before reopening or soon after
- The library applied again for an Internet Connectivity Grant of \$1500 from VCF/VTLIB. It can be used for a wide range of improvements to help give patrons better access to computers and the internet
- The Summer Reading Grant application has been submitted
- The Vermont Historic Preservation Matching Grant program has been submitted

Treasurer's Report (Joe Boyd):

- Both cash and investments remain strong with below budget expenses and fundraising ahead of budget
- Budget planning for the coming FY has begun. The budget will be presented to the Board in May

Policy Manual and Mission Statement (Ron Miller):

Vote to Adopt the Policy Manual

The Board has been reviewing a draft for several months and all concerns were addressed before taking this vote.

Motion (Ron Miller)	1st	2nd	Vote
Motion to adopt the Policy Manual	Elizabeth Daniels	John Williams	Approved unanimously

Vote to Adopt the New Mission Statement

As an important public expression of NWPL's purpose, the mission statement is included in the Policy Manual. While reviewing the Policy Manual, the Board has been considering an updated version of the mission statement for several months. The Board voted separately to adopt it.

Motion (Ron Miller)	1st	2nd	Vote
Motion to adopt the new Mission Statement	Joe Boyd	Brenda Metzler	Approved unanimously

Anti-Racism Task Force (ARTF) Update:

- The ARTF presented the final draft framework for the anti-racism educational resource page on the NWPL website, and the ARTF Goals aligned to each committee
- The ARTF will collaborate with the Communications Committee (Elizabeth Daniels and Karen Copenhaver), on the communications strategy highlighting the work of the ARTF and the Board

Committee Reports:

Nominating

- The Board voted unanimously to reelect Joe Boyd as Trustee
- Joe Boyd shared the bio of prospective Trustee, Priscilla Marsicovetere for consideration. A Pomfret resident, Priscilla is Director of the Franklin Pierce University Physician Assistant Program. The Board will vote at the April meeting
- There is currently one (additional) vacancy on the Board to be filled

Development/Planned giving

- A written report was submitted
- Donations continue to exceed budget
- Two grants were awarded (total \$2500) by The Vermont Community Foundation
- The Planned Giving (legacy giving) group has begun to develop their comprehensive plan

Building & Grounds

Motion (Joe Boyd)	1st	2nd	Vote
Motion to accept Darren McCullough's proposal, and authorize repair of the paved walkway from the two granite steps and iron benches to the main stairs of the building	Laurie Chester	John Williams	Approved unanimously

Adjourn:

Motion (Ron Miller)	1st	2nd	Vote
Motion to adjourn at 7:10 pm	Joe Boyd	Bill Colson	Passed Unanimously

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Hankey, Secretary April 6, 2021