

Minutes
Norman Williams Public Library Board

Board Meeting
January 29, 2024, 5:15PM

Attending:

- Joe Boyd, Tom List, Dave Green and Susan Piccoli attended in person.
- Elisa D'Andrea, Donna Bold, Noah and Bianca Zlatea attended via Zoom.
- Rachael Ringenberg was absent.
- Clare McFarland was present by invitation.
- Submitted by Tom List, Secretary

Call to order at 5:15PM.

Opening Remarks & Announcements (Joe Boyd, Chair):

Joe verified that a quorum was present and asked if there were any changes to the agenda and there were none.

Joe asked if there were any changes to the December 18th, 2023, Board meeting minutes.

In the absence of any proposed changes, Joe called for a motion to accept the minutes of the December 18th, 2023, Board meeting. The motion was moved by Dave and seconded by Elisa.

Approved unanimously.

Library Director's Report by Clare McFarland

Claire presented a *Weapon's Statement* that she recommends addressing the matter of guns being brought into the library. The Weapons Statement can be incorporated into the library Code of Conduct and enforced accordingly.

Joe called for a motion to vote on the addition of the Weapons Statement to the Code of Conduct.

Motion to approve the recommended *Weapons Statement* was moved by Dave and seconded by Donna.

Approved unanimously.

Claire shared that Bill Chorsky has offered to donate four paintings to the library and she recommends we accept the offer. All board members were emailed an image of the paintings. The library would be required to obtain them in Madison CT. Donna asked if a gift of this nature could be used as a fundraising item and Claire confirmed that this could be the case if so decided.

Joe called for a motion to vote to accept the artwork as a donation.

Motion to accept the artwork was moved by Donna and seconded by Elisa.

Approved unanimously.

NWPL Gala is planned for the last day in April. Details on the schedule of events, entertainment, and speaker theme to follow.

Claire discussed library funding opportunities that are being pursued. Claire and Michael are attending a meeting on Vermont State funding for public libraries. Claire has submitted a pre application for a grant that can be used for large scale projects. Such funding could support the anticipated building exterior masonry work and/or privacy pod installation. Claire is also working on an application for round two of the Vermont Historic Restoration Funding Grant Program. The library received a grant in the amount of \$5,800 from the Creative Aging Program which is supported by the Vermont Arts Council.

Claire is expecting to receive a second estimate for the building exterior masonry project soon.

The privacy pod project is still being researched for design and sprinkler requirements.

Treasurer's Report-Dave Green

Dave discussed the Treasurer's Report. The library is in good financial position and the Fall Appeal is very close to coming in on budget. The stock market remains strong further assisting the library's financial investments. On January 25th, the Investment Committee met with Morgan Stanley. Morgan Stanley and the Investment Committee agreed that there will be no changes to the investment strategy at present. There is a new Morgan Stanley advisor, James

Goodrich, who replaced two advisors who have been working with the library in the past. After meeting with Jim, the Investment Committee has elected to continue with Morgan Stanley and the new advisor.

Motion to approve Treasurer's report was moved by Donna and seconded by Susan.

Approved unanimously.

Other Business:

Committee Reports

Joe asked if there were any committee reports. None were offered.

Joe announced that he is stepping down from President in June. He will remain on the board until March 2025.

Dave is stepping down from Treasurer in June.

Joe asked the board to offer any suggestions on individuals that would be interested in replacing these two roles and/or being on the board.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 26th, 2024.

Joe called for a motion to adjourn. The motion was moved by Joe and seconded by Tom.

Approved unanimously.

Thereafter the meeting was adjourned at 5:50PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Tom List

January 29th, 2024