RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
3/15/23
Meeting at Rutland Free Library Fox Room

Attending: Jennifer Bagley _X_; Joe Bertolloni_X__; Chris Booth _A__; Candice Britt__X___; Matt Britt_X__;Barry Cohen _X_; Clare Coppock _X_; Sharon Courcelle _X_;Allyn Kahle _A__; Sarah Marcus_X____; William Notte _A_; Matt Olewnik___X___; John Skinner_X_; Ken Watson_X__; Randal Smathers_X_; Amy Williams _X_ (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: __Barry Cohen__Secretary: __Clare Coppock

Guests: Ryn Gluckman, Mary Ann Black, Lyle Jepson, Alex Hillard, Caroline Marotti, Jude Endrizal, Amanda Munch, Sophia Buckley Clement

Agenda Addition(s): Barry opened the meeting with an offer to allow the guests present to speak regarding the voting down of taxpayer funds for the library from the town of Ira. Ryn wants to present a check from a “Go Fund Me” campaign of $4475 raised in 48hrs to address this issue. She acknowledged that most of the donations came from Ira residents who want to make the library available to children, and that they gave in support of Drag Queens, the library and children. Maryann spoke as an Ira resident who is passionate about the library. Lyle offered CEDRR’s support to the library for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion for the area. Alex requested that a statement be made from the community that shows a commitment to drag queens. Randal expressed his thoughts of this being a 1X vote by a minority of Ira residents. 115 Ira residents currently hold valid library cards. The negative vote was stated to be a response to the Drag Queen Story Hour and is an attack on the LGTBQ community, and the library has been vandalized other times when showing its support for inclusivity. Jennifer moved/ Matt O seconded to have $3157 of the fund go to fund the citizens of Ira to have access to the library and DPIL. Amy questioned if accepting this money is disrespecting the voters of the community and is the library inserting itself into a civic process. Others spoke recognizing this will of the few voters is not necessarily the vote choice of the majority. How to spend the surplus money has been tabled to the next meeting, as well as how this vote affects the Ira rep to the board. The motion to accept the money was approved unanimously.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Matt O moved/ Joe seconded the approval of the minutes from the 2/15/23 meeting and they were approved unanimously.

Director & Assistant Director Updates:
Randal: read the report for detailed information. Randal stated the major challenge was getting the state to allow the library to apply for an energy efficiency grant that is only available for municipal buildings. Since the library is not a municipal entity, it would not qualify, however, because it is located in a municipal owned building, the state determined the library could apply for the grant. Jennifer requested a clarification of the theft from the Sharps container in the bathroom. Randal said he has referred the issue to Vermont Cares, who manages/provides the Sharps containers. This is a Big problem, requiring empathy and brainstorming sessions to address the issue.

Amy: reviewed the security issues; mirrors in, but not installed, staff did whistle test, training for OC anticipated with Matt Prouty’s help. There was a patron incident this morning to which the staff handled very appropriately. The new hires are doing great and are learning 12 of the tasks most commonly performed by the circ staff. Second interviews for the circ manager should be done by Friday. Excellent candidates have applied. Third interviews may happen next week.

Barry: met with Val from the Friends of the Library regarding the book sale/fundraiser. This was an opening to the conversation, with more to be determined
Barry will bring the Sick Bank issue to discuss to the next meeting
Note the art is off the walls of the Fox Room, to be replaced with Nellie Fox rugs and other modern art pieces

Committee Reports and Actions:

Finance: Barry summarized the budget continues to be very close to budget with income slightly unfavorable, but expense favorable due to web page and account expenses not being paid yet. Investments have plunged again Joe moved/ Ken seconded acceptance of the budget and approved unanimously.

Executive: Did not meet

Personnel: Matt O addressed the director's evaluation template sent. Barry assured he will send his comments within a week to the executive committee for discussion and the need to act on this. .

Development: Matt B said the committee will meet next Wed to discuss the information from the Friends, and ways to use the additional funds from the Go Fund Me. Matt has been in contact with Katye Munger regarding the website design. She will be available after May 1st to work with the library.

Building: as mentioned above, time is of the essence to get the grant applications in. There are other smaller items to be addressed, but nothing of significance.

Policy: Joe presented the Employee Protection Policy. Matt O moved to approve, with Joe seconding the motion. Staff has had the opportunity to review and discuss the policy. The motion passed unanimously. There is one more policy for the committee to review to catch up, plus the Investment Policy to be reviewed/updated by the finance committee, and then all policies will have been updated. They will then go into a three year rotation for all policies to be addressed.

Adjournment: 6:42PM

Next Board Meeting: <u>Wednesday April 19th</u> @ 5:15 pm