

RUTLAND FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

8/21/24

Meeting at Rutland Free Library Fox Room

Attending: Joe Bertelloni X; Candice Britt X; Matt Britt X; Barry Cohen X; Kevin Coleman X; Clare Coppock X; Allyn Kahle X; Sarah Marcus A; Carolyn Meub A; Matt Olewnik X; Joanne Pencak X; Jonathan Reynolds A; John Skinner A; Ken Watson A; Randal Smathers X; Amy Williams X (X is present, A is absent)

Presiding: Barry Cohen Secretary: Clare Coppock

Guests: Ann Bannister, Leonard DeLorenzo, Kevin Klamme, (all potential new board members), Jude Endrizal, Yvonne Brunot, John Sanborn, Debbie Sanborn, Susan Kersavage, MaryAnn Reese, Julie Fredette

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Joe moved and Matt seconded the approval of the minutes from both the 6/26/24 and 7/17/24 minutes which were approved unanimously.

Agenda Addition(s): Several members of the community came to speak about their opposition to or just to learn more about the potential move of RFL to the Asa Bloomer building downtown. Issues they addressed were opposition to parking in the parking deck, lack of outside space, and potential safety issues with the clientele outside the building. They emphasized the friendliness, great children's programs, and nostalgia of the current space. They asked questions about the size of the potential new space vs current (22,000 sq ft vs 20,000 usable sq ft in current space) and the costs associated with renovations of the current space (\$10 Million) vs Asa Bloomer (\$4.5million). They asked about looking into fundraising (best fundraiser so far for library has been \$35,000) and potential grant funding (currently waiting to hear from application submitted). Randal thanked the community members for coming and invited them to come to one or all three of the public hearings being planned with the mayor once we have received the feasibility study that is being done on the Asa Bloomer building. The meeting dates are yet to be announced and will be held here at RFL, one in the Godnick Center, and one at the Rec Center. The ultimate goal is to look at what will provide the Rutland Community with a 21st Century library that will last for the next 10-20+ years.

Director & Assistant Director Updates:

Randal: see report, in addition, Randal fears the next breakdown will be the AC, as mechanical pieces have been patched, but the control is from 1988 and it's just a matter of time.

With a recent electric outage, only 2 emergency lights lit up. Alliance came to inspect the lights and found the newest light is 14yrs old. They provided an estimate to replace 20 lights, 25 exit signs and 5 combined lights/exit signs for the cost of \$7175. If they install it, they will also maintain it. Matt B moved/ Candice seconded to approve hiring Alliance to provide and install the emergency lights.

Vermont Life Safety inspected and passed the alarm system, but 45 minutes later the dry alarm failed. It is being addressed.

Michelle Monroe from Senator Peter Welch's office stopped by for a tour of the library and to show her support for RFL and stated that word from VTDL is that RFL is the #1 library in VT

needing renovation and she feels an application for next year with better defined plans for renovating the Asa Bloomer building with shared city services will help get the application through the Congressional budgeting process.

Randal requested help from the board in developing a new adult lecture series which would be "unusual". See Randal for more information.

Amy: see report, in addition, Amy has received an estimate from Heritage Preservation regarding addressing the lead paint on the 3 large front windows with two options: 1. apply sealant which would mean no more opening the windows, or 2. abatement of the windows. Amy reminded it's the time of year for association membership, the governing body for the board. Interested parties must be a member 30 days prior to joining the board, so applications are due by Sept. 16th.

Committee Reports and Actions:

Finance: Kevin reported the July financials. Revenue is short \$12,407 and expenses exceeded budget \$9941. Matt O moved/Joe seconded to approve the finance report and it was passed unanimously. Our FY24 numbers are at the CPA firm for analysis. FY26 budget process is starting. It will be challenging.

Executive: Clare reported the exec committee met and discussed the Engineering feasibility study regarding the Asa Bloomer building which is expected soon. A letter was sent to the BOA Community and Economic Development Committee which met last night regarding RFLs support for moving City Hall to the Asa Bloomer building. Reaction regarding the City Hall move is mixed. No vote has been taken yet. The state ARPA grant is now to be released the 3rd week of Sept.

Personnel: Did not meet

Development: Did not meet

Policy & Planning: Did not meet

Kevin moved, Matt B seconded going into Executive Session without Randal and Amy to discuss administrative personnel issue at 6:20.

Out of Executive Session at 6:29.

Adjournment: 6:29PM

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday Sept 18, 2024 @ 5:15 pm