

ROGERS FREE LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEETING MINUTES FOR
June 15, 2023

A meeting of the Trustees of Rogers Free Library was held on Thursday, June 15, 2023, at 6:30 PM. It was held in person at Rogers Free Library, 525 Hope Street Bristol, Rhode Island.

Present:

Al Wroblewski - Trustee | Chairperson
Nicholas Landekic - Trustee
Marie Knapman - Trustee
Beverly Larson - Trustee
Samantha Faria – Trustee
Kasey Feijo - Trustee
Eileen Dyer - Interim Library Director

Absent:

Laura Cabral - Trustee | Secretary

AGENDA ITEMS

1. CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE/QUORUM

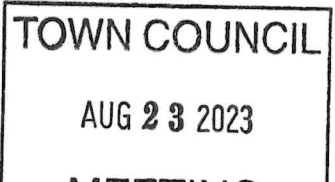
Al Wroblewski called the meeting to order at 6:29pm and noted there was a quorum.
Al introduced Nick Landekic and Kasey Feijo as new trustees.

2. REVIEW/AMEND/APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

- Minutes of Special Meeting April 26, 2023
- Beverly Larson made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Marie Knapman. Vote: all in favor.
- Minutes of Previous Meeting May 18, 2023
- Samantha Faria noted an error in the minutes, the minutes excluded Samantha Faria as present as well as Eileen Dyer.
- Samantha Faria made a motion to approve the minutes with that amendment. Beverly Larson seconded the motion. Vote: all in favor.

3. CHAIR REPORT

Al Wroblewski reviewed his report. Al welcomed the new trustees again, Nick Landekic and Kasey Feijo. Al mentioned that the onboarding process for new trustees needs improvement and brought up the idea of having the selection committee also providing help with onboarding in the future. Al also introduced the idea of a possible mentor system between current trustees and new trustees. Marie Knapman asked for clarification and Al expanded that



there would need to be further discussion at a later meeting to figure out how to best integrate new trustees.

Al discussed the fact that the officer elections were moved to the July meeting because of the new trustees. Al mentioned he has spoken to Nick Landekic about the Treasurer position but that Nick has some concerns on liability coverage. Al will work on getting a copy of the liability insurance from the town. Nick specifically believes the trustees need a blanket indemnification policy. Al also outlined his thoughts on future sustainability and succession plans for the officer positions and subcommittees. Al said he will continue to talk to each trustee individually before the elections to gauge interest in officer positions.

Al brought up the idea that the trustees could get more work done in subcommittees moving forward to save time and work in the larger meeting. Samantha Faria brought up a desire to have more trustees. Marie Knapman stated that as a municipal entity we've reached the maximum of seven members. Beverly Larson and Samantha Faria discussed the possibility of allowing volunteers to serve on subcommittees.

4. LIBRARY DIRECTOR REPORT

Eileen Dyer went through her report. Eileen mentioned that the staff have been very welcoming and open to her new role. The town allowed \$100,000 to be moved from the personnel line to the general line, which allowed for many new important purchases, outlined in detail within the director report. Beverly Larson asked for clarification on why there was extra funding in the personnel line, which Eileen outlined that it was due to unfilled positions throughout the year like assistant director. Samantha Faria made a special note to say how much she appreciated the new format of the director report for its conciseness and readability.

Eileen says she would like to discuss tightening up the policies for use of the library facility by the public to make sure it's up to date for current challenges facing libraries nationwide. Eileen suggested she has some ideas for this when the board is ready to discuss in a future meeting.

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

Al Wroblewski explained why there were multiple reports in the meeting files instead of just one month, it's because there needed to be more current information as we approach the end of the fiscal year. Eileen Dyer mentioned the Herreshoff Grant is expected to come in later this summer. Al asked Eileen how important she thought the new QuickBooks integration would be for the internal staff and Eileen said it will be essential but there is no concrete timeline for it yet. Eileen mentioned she wants to get more clarity on the utilities billing through the town and will work on getting that information. Nick Landekic said it will be important moving forward that the town system and the internal system always be reconciled. Beverly Larson mentioned that she is happy to see the budget adjustment between lines allowed for a lot of long-time need

purchases to be fulfilled. Samantha Faria said she's happy to see the funding be used for a lot of facility maintenance and improvements that are needed.

6. OLD BUSINESS

The Library Director search continues. There were six candidates but one dropped out, leaving five at present. Interviews have commenced and will complete in July.

7. NEW BUSINESS

The group discussed what was going on with Comics Plus and there was some confusion on whether or not the board needed to approve the program since it was already budgeted for through the friends. Beverly Larson recommended that the board vote on the subject out of an abundance of caution so the program could move forward as needed. Beverly made a formal motion to approve, seconded by Marie Knapman. Vote: all in favor.

Al Wroblewski mentioned that there will be a calendar of meetings released soon, including whether to move the December meeting up a week due to the holidays. Al said we will wait for Laura Cabral to be present to make this happen.

Beverly Larson asked if the board needed to discuss an ARIA grant for a writers group. Eileen Dyer said she's still reviewing the eligibility and Al Wroblewski brought up that it needs to benefit the public to be considered and it wasn't clear that was part of the proposal. Beverly Larson asked Eileen to make sure this was sustainable for the library and future requests from professional groups. Eileen said she will review.

8. MEMBER PREROGATIVES

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

The trustees thanked Hope and David Chase for attending the meeting and asked to hear more about their interest in the meeting and the library. Hope and David are new to town, but Hope is a retired librarian from Maryland.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE: July 20, 2023

11. ADJOURN

- o Marie Knapman moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Samantha Faria, Vote: all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:04pm.