

MILLIS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING June, 2021

Meeting Minutes The Trustees of the Millis Public Library met virtually on June 14th, 2021. Present were Chair Wendy Barry, Trustee Laura Satta, and Library Director Kim Tolson. The meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm by Ms. Barry.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Meeting minutes from May were deferred.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Budget:

Ms. Tolson reports we are wrapped on spending for FY21 and awaiting several orders to come in. The town has Covid grant funding still available and Ms. Tolson is still planning to purchase door counters and video conferencing technology for hybrid events in the future.

Facilities

Ms. Tolson reports that the toilet repairs are complete.

Ms. Tolson met with two companies and is planning a walk through with a third to compare estimates for wayfinding signage for the building.

Ms. Tolson is also gathering quotes from companies who conduct facilities assessments. She's met with two and has been in touch with several more.

Ms. Tolson reports that the town has been awarded a \$50,000 grant to install Millis' first electric car charging station and it will be located in the parking lot behind the library. Further details to come.

Friends:

The Friends of the MPL are planning a children's booksale in the courtyard for Saturday June 26th.

Other Programs/Services:

Twenty five patrons participated in the Trivia Brothers' Harry Potter trivia virtual event.

Ms. Tolson reports steady attendance, with about 5-7 people, at the virtual Short Story Book Club, Tea Time, and Cliquot Clubs.

Ms. Rachel has been running storytime in the courtyard since the beginning of June with full attendance and a waitlist. Also, she ran a craft program that had a small, engaged group and she is starting Lego club back up again.

Some upcoming programs Ms. Tolson mentioned: Ms. Davis is planning a four film series of outdoor movies starting in late July with a superhero theme. She is also planning to restart the science book club outside.

Old Business:

Ms. Barry reports that the historic map of Millis is restored and back at the library. Discussion about having an unveiling when it's installed in the local history room. Work continues on the curio cabinet restoration.

All addressed concern about the bags of soil sitting in the courtyard and where to move them but agree that they are an eyesore and need to be moved.

New Business:

Ms. Tolson reports the library is being granted via the MLBC, using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), wifi hotspots to include in the library's lending collection. MLBC will require they be lent to patrons ages 17 and older.

Ms. Tolson presented the case for eliminating overdue fines at the library permanently. During Covid, the Minuteman Network suspended overdue fines for all materials. Discussion ensued. Ms. Satta expressed support for the measure. Ms. Barry expressed concern that patrons waiting for, in particular new, books on hold will not experience longer delays in receiving them as a result of waived fines. There was a point of clarification that for items believed to be lost or just never brought back, patrons will still receive bills. Interest in doing further comparative research on the program's success and potentially implementing the program on a trial basis. Suggestion to promote and advertise the measure on the library social media pages.

Ms. Barry asked about the possibility of utilizing more Covid funding to expand our ability to provide programs and services outside, whether it be new and varied seating, extra sets of materials to hand out to kids during various children's programming, etc.

Ms. Barry also asked about the library engaging in more in-person public outreach like creating a mobile library to show up at town recreation events, etc.

Covid reopening plan:

Ms Tolson reports the first few weeks of reopening have gone smoothly. Staff have seen patrons who did not use the online appointment system previously. Several patrons reportedly have shared positive feedback about how the library handled Covid and appreciated all the virtual services provided. Curbside service continues to be in demand and staff are processing roughly 25 requests per day. Patrons have expressed their appreciation for flexible pickup times.

The project smile mural was installed on the fence in the library courtyard.

NEXT TRUSTEE MEETING: Monday July 12th, 2021 at 7pm in person. Meeting adjourned pm.

A True Record _____

/S/ Laura Satta