

FLETCHER MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DATE: 3/14/2024

PRESENT: Andstrom, Astin, Burten, Davis, Haldas, Hochstetter, Kaye, O'Brien

ABSENT: Caldwell, Larsen

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Burten in Caldwell's absence.

AUDIENCE FOR CITIZENS: x

Bruce Spaman – report and discussion of Arbor Day 2024 celebration at the library. Hampton Recreation & Conservation Commission have teamed up to purchase a tree for the FML in honor of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to replace the tree we lost this year on the front lawn. Discussion on type of tree: Spaman suggestions: a native tree first of all, such as a red oak. All in agreement. Motion by Davis, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Haldas: Deputize Spaman to find and purchase a suitable tree for FML – expenses to be covered by Hampton Rec and Conservation Commission. All in agreement.

Discussion – what about the old remaining stump? Davis to contact local stump grinder (Duffy) for estimate.

Committee formed to site the tree: Spaman, Hochstetter, Kaye, Haldas, Davis. To meet at site Sat. 10:00 AM. Report to follow. [REPORT OF THE TREE SITING COMMITTEE attached below] Discussion on Arbor Day ceremony. Spaman presented an agenda based on past event's which will thank all involved, school students to present art works and poems, FML to hand out seed from the UConn Master Garden program. All in agreement with same.

SEATING OF ALTERNATE: x

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to accept \_Hochstetter; 2<sup>nd</sup> \_Kaye. Approved .

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT - Haldas: Has a question about our billing...do we pay Charter or Spectrum for our internet bill. Apparently our internet charge changes month to month and would like to know why; also wants to know why our monthly electric bill (Eversource) is so high. Will need to see the actual internet bill which now goes direct to Shane Navratil.

Andstrom unhappy with present cleaning service (ProClean). Not good quality for price (\$130/mo for two cleanings)Kaye to contact alternate service (Renee's Cleaning) and put in touch w Andstrom.

Haldstrom: notes discrepancy in reporting of annual book expenses (2023=\$6K; 2023=\$78K).

Larsen has explained that know SN is lumping all expenses (books, CD;s, DVD,s in one sum so it is a reporting problem). Haldas to contact Alex SN to request monthly actuals be sent to him which he can use for his reporting to the board.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT - Andstrom: 1. New computer installed; keyboard working but printers yet to be connected. Printer in work room is broken, need to buy a new one. Motion O'Brien; 2<sup>nd</sup> Hochstetter – to locate and purchase a new printer for under \$60 ASAP.

2. Programs all running smoothly.

3. April plans include taking part in the CT Library Passport Program – participants receive a 'library passport' which they can have stamped at any other CT public library with the goal to see how many libraries you can visit as possible.

#### ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN'S REPORT - Larsen:

##### ON-GOING:

Music: Davis presents the history of the FML summer music series and suggests a three-concert summer series this year. Wants to know what the budget will be. Question: how much money raised at the last Bach in the Garden fundraiser? Suggestion that a budget of \$1450 might be possible .

Art: Janice Leitch show is up and opening was successful. O'Brien looking for one more artist for the fall. Davis suggests local artist Susie Graseck – will furnish contact info to O'Brien.

Volunteer appreciation efforts: Christmas gift cards for volunteers still have not been distributed. Q. do the gift cards exist? A. yes. Why have they not been handed out yet? Problem with gift cards? We need to get these to our volunteers. Noted: sense of frustration at delay.

Maintenance: Burten to call our plumber to deal with present plumbing issues.

Discussion on last month's presentation by Ct Resources Internet plan. Before we commit to this program we need to know how much we are presently spending monthly on internet access, and is the expense of this proposed new program worth it for us? There are other options. Ex. O'Brien has a household 5G program which costs him \$50/mo, is basically the same as cell phone service. That's a possibility. Also, Frontier and Spectrum are both coming through with high-speed cable in the next few years. Do we want to be tied into a long-term commitment to this other service? Decision to table this discussion until next month.

##### NEW BUSINESS:

New board member: June Miller apparently not interested. Andstrom to call B Regan who has expressed interest in returning to the board.

Volunteer interviews: Kaye to interview Janice Trecker for the next article.

Hampton Harvest is moving into action again. Kaye and O'Brien will be re-doing last year's yard signs for re-use.

Librarian search committee – Andstrom needs to get them a new job description which she will do as soon as printers are working.

ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn Haldas; 2nd Hochstetter. Meeting ended by consensus 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Davis, secretary

THE REPORT OF THE TREE SITING COMMITTEE (via email from Hochstetter on 3/16/24)

The Arbor Day Tree choice committee (Mark, Andrea, Bruce Spaman, Sue) met today and recommends the planting of a new tree on the North Library lawn, east of the butterfly garden.

The butterfly garden will not be impacted at all. There is plenty of room for the Arbor Day program facing the Church parking lot. The tree species will depend on availability. It will either be a Tricolor Beech or Serviceberry (shad blow). Bruce will see about availability. We also think the dead tree in that area near the bluebird box should be removed. Any questions about this? Arbor Day is sneaking up on us. What say you all?

Note; the only answer to this email was from Burten – his answer was positive.