

WPL Trustee Meeting Minutes, February 6, 2023

In Attendance

Jenn Warner, Library Director
Heidi Hardin, Trustee
Shaheen Parks, Trustee
Chris Welles, Secretary
Cecily Cassum, AIC
Debbi Darling† & Anna Berger, Co-Presidents of The Friends

Emily Hutcheson, Trustee
Joe Mullin, Trustee
Susan Scott, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Susan Scott at 9:37 AM

Approval of Minutes of January 9th, 2023: Tabled pending revisions pertaining to the Endowment Spending Policy

Director's Report

Foot traffic is up (42% 1/2023 versus 1/2021), especially Tuesday & Thursday afternoons, driven by programs: after-school book club; adult book clubs; and other adult programming.

Alli is starting a *Romance* book club, "*In The Mood For Love*", meeting Monday evenings once a month.

The Winfred Rembert "*Chasing Me To My Grave*" memoir event with Lillian Rembert & Erin I. Kelly, held at the Town Hall Auditorium, was a programming highlight, with 96 people in attendance.

Policy on Unattended Adults In Youth Services Dept:

Some adults have attended children's events. It makes children nervous to have "unattached" adults in the room for events such as the children's book club, and poses a safety concern. The *Unattended Adults Policy* is amended to indicate that adults may not participate in programs organized for children and teens unless parental/caregiver attendance is required or the program is offered as a family program.

Motion: Joe Mullin moved to accept the amended policy draft as written. **Seconded: Chris Welles. Motion** passed unanimously.

Fine Removal Discussion:

Fines are an impediment to Library usage. There is overhead for Library staff in collecting fines and making change. The WPL is one of only four libraries in the Minuteman Library Network that still assesses overdue

finer — along with Wellesley. Fines collected have reduced from \$20K in FY19 to \$6K in FY22. Fines go to the Town. TBD: find out whether the fines go into the Town General Fund or elsewhere. Also find out to what extent removal of fines at other libraries have increased library usage.

AIC Report - Cecily Cassum

The year-end fund drive brought the funds raised over the past 13 months to \$18,000, including a generous donation from The Friends.

The AIC is starting a project to create a new strategic plan. Participants include the Advisory Board, three staff members; and Jenn, Shaheen Zojwalla and Heidi Hardin. The project will last about 6 months. The intention is to develop a better approach to financial projections; and identify 2-3 goals/initiatives for the next 1 to 3 years.

AIC electric bills are very expensive, especially in the winter (totaling \$11,000 for Dec-March 2021/2022), because of the combination of resistance electric heat and poor building insulation. Cecily will schedule an energy audit of the AIC with MassSave.

Adjournment: Emily Hutcheson moved to adjourn at 10:25 AM. Heidi Hardin seconded.

Next Meeting: March 13th, 2022 at 9:30 AM in the AIC Reading Room

Respectfully submitted, Christopher Welles, secretary