

Minutes

OAK BLUFFS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monthly meeting: 3:30 pm September 9, 2021

Trustees Attending: Marney Toole, Pam Melrose, Scottie Vail, Kathy Taylor

Guests: El Edwards, Robin Ayers

CALL TO ORDER: 3:30pm by the Chair

MSP: To approve the minutes of the July 8, 2021 meeting.

COVID UPDATE: Allyson reported that outdoor programming continues to be available in good weather. This includes yoga, walking tours, fishing and other activities. Maritime Month programming is currently underway. Project Illuminate is primarily filmed indoors on Saturday mornings. This program is designed to capture the Oak Bluffs culture for historic records. The popular Fossil event has been cancelled for the second year in a row.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN SEARCH UPDATE: Originally there were 9 qualified candidates. They were asked for resumes and to create a flier. 5 candidates have withdrawn leaving 4 to go to the next step. The committee to recommend is in the process of meeting and interviewing each candidate. After a lengthy discussion of past practices and by-laws it was decided that Allyson and Marney will investigate whether the Board of Trustees needs to approve a selection before hiring is accomplished. The Board of Trustees will review our by-laws as they relate to hiring of paid staff.

RECOMMENDATION FOR OPEN TRUSTEE POSITIONS:

Scottie and Pam reported that there were 6 applications, and one was withdrawn. Letters of interest were read by Board members and all 5 candidates were interviewed informally by Scottie and Pam.

MSP to recommend the following candidates to the Select Board for appointment: Pat Washington for a 3-year term and Heather Boyle to complete the term (2 years remaining) of Lynn Van Auken who has resigned and moved away.

2.

TEEN REP: A discussion was held regarding the proposal that we have a teen representative who would attend Trustee meetings. The Board felt it needs to be a high school age student and an alternate proposal was made that we consider having a teen advisory group who would meet independently and make suggestions to the library as to the needs and wants of teenagers. Allyson will do some investigating to see if there is interest among the teens who use the library.

MEETING FORMAT: Town allows hybrid meetings, in person meetings and Zoom meetings but discourages hybrid meetings and encourages in person meetings as best practice.

MSP: To meet in person on the second Thursday of the month at 3:30pm unless Covid protocols prohibit in person meetings.

REQUEST FOR LIBRARY CLOSING: By Allyson for de-escalation training for staff. This is scheduled for Friday, October 29 with Jeff Carruthers as facilitator.

MSP: To allow the library to close for the morning of October 29 so that the OBPL staff may attend the de-escalation training.

REQUEST TO EXPAND OPEN HOURS: Allyson is requesting permission to institute a trial period for early opening of the library one day per week. This will be called "Wake up Wednesdays" and may include coffee if allowed by the Board of Health. This change is in response to patrons who would like to come to the library earlier than our 10am opening and the low use of the library during our evening hours. A discussion was held.

MSP: To open the library at 8am on Wednesdays during a trial period of one quarter (4 months) commencing in November.

The Plaque Dedication initiative was tabled due to lack of news.

MONTHLY REPORTS: July and August reports were read on-line by the Trustees prior to this meeting. Allyson reported that the new light bulbs will arrive on 9/18/21. She has contacted Ray to help obtain an electrician to do the installation. Allyson assured everyone that donations are always acknowledged by the library.

ADJOURNMENT: MSP: to adjourn the meeting at 5pm.

3.

ACTIONS:

1. Marney will inform the 5 applicants for Trustee of our recommendations. She will inform the Town of our recommendations.
2. Allyson will research whether teens are interested in some form of teen participation with the Trustees.
3. Allyson will report on the new lighting in October.
4. All Trustees will attend in-person meetings year-round and use conference call-in infrequently.
5. The Trustees are invited to attend a library social event at Noman's on September 27, 2021 from noon to 2pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scottie Vail, Secretary