

Falmouth Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes
March 21, 2017, 6:45 p.m.
Falmouth Public Library
300 Main Street, Trustees' Room
Falmouth, MA 02540

Present: Trustees Lysbeth Abrams, Jerome Fanger, Lindsay Hopewood, Kathleen Murray, Otis Porter, Sylvia Szulkin, Marilyn Zacks, Acting Library Director Linda Collins; Guests: Len Miele on behalf of Friends of the Falmouth Public Library, Judy Fenwick, candidate for Library Trustee
Absent: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Chair Lysbeth Abrams.

1. Request for Use of Library Grounds

The Classic Car Club has asked to use the front lawn of main library to display antique cars on September 23, 2017. On a motion by Murray seconded by Szulkin the Board voted unanimously to approve the application.

2. Friends: Len Miele

(a) The Friends' Board has approved \$39,000 for the items on the Library Wish List submitted by Linda Collins Acting Director.

(b) The Friends' Newsletter has been mailed to the membership.

(c) The "Joy of Learning" courses start during the second week of April. The courses are titled as follows: (i) Islam (ii) The Portuguese in Falmouth (iii) Law of the Sea and

(iv) Our Falmouth Water

Yang Conley will oversee the Joy of Learning programs.

(d) Preparations are underway for the July book sale.

(e) The Friends' Annual Meeting will be held in the Hermann Room on April 24. Jane Hewitt will be nominated for President of the Friends and Len Miele for vice-President.

3. Support Fund Report: Sylvia Szulkin

The Support Fund Board will next meet on April 10, 2017.

4. Minutes: Sylvia Szulkin

On a motion by Murray seconded by Zacks, the open session Minutes for the February 2017 meeting were unanimously approved as written. It was the consensus of the Trustees that consideration of the Executive Minutes be deferred to the next meeting Given the press of business on the current agenda.

5. Correspondence: Lysbeth Abrams

Librarian Kim De Wall has sent the Trustees a thank-you note for the Board's reimbursement of her tuition for the digital children's storytelling workshop.

6. In-House and Personnel Report: Linda Collins as Asst. Director

(a) Christy Couch has been hired for the 20-hour per week position in technical services.

(b) The library has received a request from a local group to use the Hermann Room for a political letter writing campaign against a specific party and its policies. The Trustees' Meeting Room Use policy bars political rallies and political campaigning in the meeting rooms. After discussion, there was no consensus on whether letter writing and phone banking were permissible uses.

(c) A Falmouth resident has offered to donate a nine-foot tall stained glass window. Collins showed the Trustees a photo of the window. She suggested that the window could be hung indoors over the entryway on the K.L. Bates side of the library behind the sculpture titled "America." Szulkin stated that the stained glass would benefit from light coming in through the large window over the entryway and add color and drama to the area. However, she suggested that before a decision is made Collins should consult the Town Engineer on whether the stained glass window could be safely hung in that location.

Collins and Hopewood volunteered to look at the stained glass, which is still in the donor's home.

(d) Collins has canvassed the staff about its preferences for use of donated money. Fanger stated that up to five years ago the Trustees approved programs before they were presented. Collins asked that the Trustees present any concerns about library programs to the Library Director.

(e) Update on North Falmouth branch renovation.

The archaeologist's visit to the Indian burial marker has been postponed due to a recent storm. Collins and Asst. Town Manager Peter Johnson-Staub met with representatives of the Wampanoag tribe in their headquarters. The representatives stated that they suspected that Indian bodies were more widely-dispersed on the North Falmouth library grounds than originally thought.

7. Treasurer's Report: Jerome Fanger

Fanger reported on the balances currently in the Trustees' accounts as well as on withdrawals this past calendar year.

It was the consensus of the Board that the Treasurer return to reporting for the fiscal year instead of the calendar year.

On a motion by Szulkin seconded by Abrams, the Treasurer's report was unanimously accepted for filing.

8. Chair's Report: Lysbeth Abrams

(a) Two local artists have offered to sell their set of oversized mosaic alphabet pages to the Trustees for a five-figure sum for display in the library. Zacks stated that historically the library has not purchased art. Abrams stated that the library should not be in the business of acquiring art. On a motion by Zacks seconded by Abrams, the Trustees voted 6 to 1 to thank the artists for their offer but respectfully decline it.

(b) Abrams stated that Board member Zacks strongly recommends that recognition be given at the beginning of each public library program to the funder of the program. Collins stated that she would convey that message to staff who introduce the programs. Zacks

asked that a short statement of appreciation be prepared for inclusion in program introductions.

On a motion by Zacks seconded by Fanger, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

The meeting concluded at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia L. Szulkin, Board Secretary