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Meeting Acushnet Public Library Board of Trustees

Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 4 p.m.

In attendance: Jennifer Alves, Chair

Diane Ferreira

Nancy Francis

Joan Howland, Secretary

Stephen Reale

Dina St. Pierre, Library Director

Secretary's Report

A motion was made by Stephen to accept the secretary's report from January 31, 2023. The motion was seconded by Diane. All voted in favor.

Budget Report

The salary line is 73.2% spent as it should be at this time of the year. There is currently an overage in the tech line because of staffing turnover. There is a shortfall in the custodian line due to a math error in the budgeting but it will be covered by the overage in the tech line. No concerns in operating. The total budget is 74.8% spent. Diane moved to accept the budget report and Nancy seconded. All voted in favor.

Old Business

The Finance Committee voted unanimously for the full library budget which includes the full-time Children's Room Assistant. It still must go to the Selectmen for approval.

Snow removal at the library is still an issue. This year, there was only one storm but there needs to be a plan in place for next year. After the town meeting in the spring, it will be put back on the Selectmen's agenda.

New Business

The library will be open 1-3 p.m. on Good Friday as the AFSME contract calls for a ½ work day and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) wasn't done for the library holiday schedule as it has been in the past when negotiating the Union contract. The library will also be closed on Monday (4/17) for Patriots' Day.

There has been a request to hold a private event in the library pavilion this September. Because there are so many questions about this (Does a staff member need to be present? Does the building need to be open for bathrooms? Will parking be a problem? Should there be a rental fee? What is the liability for the town? Does a police officer need to be present?), the Library Board of Trustees has voted to not allow private groups to use the pavilion at this time. A motion was made by Nancy, Steve seconded and all voted in favor.

Dina would like to retitle the Patron Services Associate job position to Patron Services Supervisor. This new title is more in line with the job description which will not be changing. Steven moved to change the job title from Patron Services Associate to Patron Services Supervisor. Diane seconded and all voted in favor.

Representative Schmidt attended Library Legislative Day on March 15th and spent much of the day with librarians discussing their concerns. Two of these concerns are library censorship and e-book price gouging by publishers. The librarians were grateful for the chance to voice their opinions and for his support of H3239 which would stop price gouging and other unfair practices.

Director's Report

The Acushnet library is part of the SAILS Library Road Trip this spring. This is a first-ever event for two weeks in April, 4/18-4/29. There will be maps, bookmarks and suggestions of things to see in each of the participating towns. Acushnet will host two programs during that time: Toe Jam Puppet Band on 4/21 and Hot Club Cheese Roll on 4/29. Check the library website for more information.

The library is still collecting pajamas for the Boston Bruins pajama drive until March 31st. Forty pairs have been donated so far.

The library knitting group is back and the Friends of the Library have also sponsored several programs that have been well-attended.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 4 p.m. Stephen moved to adjourn and Diane seconded. All voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan M. Howland

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