

Taft Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of the November 14th, 2024 meeting

Attendees: Leesa Michael, Gabrielle Porciello, James Thach, and Alison Chu

Staff : Andrew Jenrich

Select Board Representative: Alejna Brugos

Friends Representative: Leigh Martin

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM.
2. October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting minutes were unanimously approved, with the next meeting date of November 19, 2024 to be added.
3. Friends
  - October DQ fundraiser totaled \$380
  - November 4<sup>th</sup> flower arranging class at Lucille's on Route 16 was full and successful.
  - There will be a felting craft workshop in the New Year.
  - The DIY craft day is December 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-12
4. Director's Report
  - Senior abatement worker Jeff Kroesen and volunteer Sarah Burghart are working on the Children's non-fiction collection.
  - Carol Saari is working on Children's picture books.
  - Andrew sometimes struggles with finding staffing for all slots, as current staff's availability is limited. He is considering adding another library tech position of 8-10 hours per week
  - Library will be open 10-2 on Thanksgiving Eve and closed on Thanksgiving Day.
  - The LED mini cylinder track lights for the children's area came in. He is working on getting quotes for installing them.
  - The bid document for the repair and asphaltting of the parking lot is in its final stages. It has been decided that the library will have to be closed while the work is performed. It is estimated to take approximately one week.
  - Duest completed its first pass of fall clean-up. They will be back at the end of November to do a second pass.
  - There was a breakdown in Event Keeper's website. The system was down for 2 weeks – no one could sign up. Tara spent a tremendous amount of time finding another platform, then she reconstructed the calendar and re-entered already enrolled people.
  - James is working on enhancing next year's cardboard boat race.
5. Budget

- After 4 months, 31% of the budget has been spent, just shy of where we should be.
- Program expenses are high at 43.7% which expected after a busy summer of programs.
- Books line is running behind, but there will be larger book expenses in November.
- Programming attendance continues to be strong.

## 6. Projects

- A junior at Blackstone Valley Tech reached out about volunteer hours.
- Andrew reached out to Town Administrator Jeremy Stull about changes once Windows 10 support is over. He said the town will look to consolidate its efforts changing over PC's where necessary.
- Questions arose at the October 16<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting about the cement foundation remaining from the carriage house demolition. Several possible uses were discussed.
- Former Taft Trustee Amy Fahey has supplied Andrew with architectural firms that are adept at adaptive reuse of older buildings.
- Lawney Tinio switched out the microphone downstairs.
- Andrew will be attending the CW Mars Users Council meeting next week, where the FY26 budget will be voted on.
- The second group of library state aid recipients should be announced in December or January. The total award per library should increase as the State Aid to Public Libraries increased by \$20million for FY25. We are usually in that group.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 19th, 2024.

Adjourned at 7:11 PM