

DIGHTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
March 6, 2023
2:00 PM
Old Town Hall

This meeting was a hybrid meeting and will be open to the public through the Zoom Conferencing platform. A recording is available on the Dighton Public Library's Youtube Channel.

Call to Order Trustee Meeting Started at 2:08 PM.

This was a hybrid meeting with adequate and accessible access through Zoom.

Roll Call – In-person participants: Ron O’Connor, Chair; Rita Araujo, trustee; Ann Meitzen, trustee; Jocelyn Tavares, library director

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

With a virtual meeting, a roll call vote should be taken, so that it is absolutely clear what the outcome of the vote is. The meeting must be completely audible. The meeting is recorded.

Ann moved to approve the January 24 meeting minutes. Rita seconded.

Ann asked if the COVID disclaimer on the agenda was still relevant. Jocelyn replied that the disclaimer was edited for this agenda to reflect that the meeting was hybrid.

Ron O’Connor: Aye

Rita Araujo: Aye

Ann Meitzen: Aye

Motion passes.

Ron wanted to clarify the record on a statement in the minutes that was attributed to him. He made a friendly amendment to clarify that the tables were moved so that he could better see his colleagues on the Board.

Rita moved to approve the February 1 meeting minutes. Ann seconded.

Ron O’Connor: Aye

Rita Araujo: Aye

Ann Meitzen: Aye

Motion passes.

Old Business

- Bylaw changes - review: Ron began by explaining the process to amend bylaws, Article 10. Bylaw changes were discussed but not acted upon in accordance with the bylaw.
 - Article 6 defines regular meetings as meetings that take place at a specific place and time on a monthly basis. Recommendation to change “library” to “town premises.” Suggestion was made to add a clause that allows for regular meeting dates to change with advance notice. It was noted that the bylaw vote would take place on April 13, 2023, at 7:00 PM in accordance with current regular meeting definition.
- Public Comment Policy - review: In light of the experience of the January meeting and feedback received on the public comment policy. Ron wanted to amend the amount of time for public comment. Change to four minutes in a single speaking opportunity, with

some discretion with regard to circumstances, as long as everyone is granting the same amount of time to all speakers. Cite Mass General Law in the policy. It was previously mentioned on the agenda.

- Community Outreach & Education updates: Wanted to think about recruitment and discuss the community forum. Is the community forum an extension of the community outreach and education committee, or do we recruit from the public forum for members of the community? Jocelyn shared examples of work other libraries did. Jocelyn liked the example where the library gave concrete ideas and examples about what people can specifically do in this role. Discussed defined volunteer opportunities and the volunteer application. The committee would be the ones who are putting together the ambassador program. Use the forum to inform what the community concentrates on. Set up a meeting to discuss the plan. Monday, March 13 at 1:00. Jocelyn will find space to accommodate this meeting.

New Business

- Debrief from Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners webinar: Ron acknowledged the amount of time the board has invested to educate themselves on the collections issue. Town counsel was involved because of the possibility some of the recommendations made were not permissible. Ann added the specific issue was the relocation of materials that would restrict access. The board is bound by case law and Massachusetts law. Rita mentioned that changing the location restricts first amendment constitutional rights. Ann mentioned a few things that stood out to her on the training. Librarians have the training for collection development. A parent can make choice decisions for their child, not a collective group of parents deciding for the community. There was also a distinction between disinformation and misinformation, or facts vs. viewpoints. Ron mentioned that putting patrons in a position where they have to ask for a book has a stigmatizing effect. Rita reiterated that an adult or parent can't decide for others, or other parents.
 - Ron discussed a draft letter to Dighton residents regarding its content and signatories. Ron shared his experience of a webinar he was in that discussed purchasing criteria and related it to the Dighton Public Library's size. Rita thought the entire board should sign the letter. Documents referenced should be accessible to the public. Website was identified as a possibility for this resource. Discussed possible edits.
- Strategic Plan: Action Plan for remainder of Fiscal year 23 and 24: Jocelyn had trouble with the Priorities document working the way it did in the fall. Updated the activities. Some of the activities should be carried over to next fiscal year. The library is in a much different place today than it was at the time the strategic plan was drafted. The Board could take the document back and look the activities over to see what is relevant and/or should be prioritized.

Public Comment

- Alys Vincent commented on the walk through Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting. She had questions about closing off the access to the building's basement and the eventual long term plan of use for the whole building. She wanted to know if there were any other plans that showed placement of an elevator and related costs. She felt that the elevator is part of the plan but no one is speaking about it. She is concerned about costs that the town is cornered into, without being able to use the lower level. She also offered assistance with fundraising for the project. She felt using CPC for funding is taking away from other projects.

Jocelyn offered a response of her understanding of the purchase of Smith Hall and the temporary locations are not an acceptable solution for library services. The opportunity to buy Smith Hall came up for sale, the focus was on rehabilitation of the main level with the lower level would be coming in the future. It was an acknowledgement of the need for library services balanced with the other capital needs in town. It was a chance to get one of the pieces fixed without impact to the taxpayer.

Alys didn't feel like this was honest about the cost to not understand the magnitude of the project.

Ron gave the timeline and explained the vote to happen at Town Meeting in June, but he also did not want to speak for the Library Building Committee or the entire board.

Executive Session

Ann moved to enter executive session and not return to open session under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2);

To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel;

Rita seconded.

Ron O'Connor:	Aye
Rita Araujo:	Aye
Ann Meitzen:	Aye
Motion passes.	

Open session is adjourned at 3:31.

Documents Referenced:

Dighton Public Library Trustee bylaws
Public comment draft policy
Packet of different library examples of Ambassador programs
Slide deck of the Legal Issues for Libraries: Collections webinar
Draft Letter