

Norwell Public Library Trustee Meeting, October 18, 2022

Present: Kathryn Mudgett (co-chair), Rachel Breen (Library Director), Chris Smith, Lauren McNeil, and Monika Brodsky. Attending public: Lorenda Layne and Veronica Mae Carney.

Meeting started at 7:05 PM

Public Comments

Lorenda Layne and Veronica Mae Carney attended this session with questions regarding the age restrictions for study room use. Lorenda noted that her 11 year old daughter was able to reserve a room in the past, but now was not able to do so, due to the library's 13 year and older policy for study rooms. Her daughter would like to do so again. Ms. Layne suggested the library could lower the age to 11 years, with parents monitoring groups. Library Director Rachel Breen explained that the reason an 11 year old could reserve the room was due to a software glitch. The system should automatically reject juveniles (children under 13 years in this case) from registering for study rooms. However, it was accepting younger users due to the glitch. Once the error had been fixed, the younger users were no longer able to reserve rooms. The trustees would like to discuss this issue further, so no decisions were made at this time to lower the age. Both women's email addresses were taken and the library will be in further contact once the situation is reviewed and any decisions made. Rachel did share with the trustees that there have been some challenges with even the 13-year-old age group, with some of these young patrons leaving trash in the rooms and being disruptive. This has resulted in those young patrons losing the use of the study rooms for the remainder of the day.

Minutes from the September meeting were approved.

Director's Report

Rachel shared that the library achieved Silver level L.E.E.D. certification. She will send several plaque possibilities for placing in the building. The library website will display and explain this certification.

Financial Report

Library is where it should be within our budget. We have estimated 60K for the electricity costs. Rachel shared that the library hopes to offset this cost with solar credits.

Friends of the NPL and Foundation

The Friends cancelled their meeting to plan for the upcoming book sale on October 21 and 22. It will be indoor only. No news from the Foundation.

Building update

Due to the drought, a number of the new plantings died. They will start being replaced in the next day or so using the approximately 12K remaining for landscape work. Once this is done, the Library Building Committee will be dissolved. Rachel told Glen of the dead tree on library grounds. The Tree and Grounds Department will take down 3 trees on the property.

The L.E.E.D. incentive grant will go straight to the Town of Norwell.

Garden benches will be deferred for now.

Rachel shared that Zoe Rath has accepted and started her position as Adult Services Librarian.

Meeting ended approximately 7:58 PM.

Minutes recorded by Monika Brodsky