

Freeport Community Library
10 Library Drive
Freeport, ME 04032

April 4, 2023
Library Sunporch
6:00 PM

Courtney Sparks – Library Director
Kim Swett – Library Board Chairperson
Mary Gallie – Library Board Vice Chairperson
Jennifer Jeffrey – Library Board Secretary

Present: Courtney Sparks, Kim Swett, Mary Gallie, Darryl Uy, Kathryn Majcher, Leslie Hallock, Mary Lehmer, (guest) and Meghan Fogg (guest).

The Meeting called to order at 6:00 pm

A. Approval of March 2023 minutes - Approved

B. Director's Report

- Courtney distributed the monthly report. The door count for March was 5548, which is the highest it has been since July 2017. Courtney indicated that she expects normal (pre-Covid) usage going forward.
- The building committee had its third and final meeting on March 20. Courtney indicated that the meetings provided her with the opportunity to hear from a variety of stakeholders, including Matt Pillsbury (Town Councilor) who attended the final meeting. She intends to meet with staff on Monday to create a list of needs, which will include improvements for youth, adult and staff services. She will present the list of needs to the architects and request design changes that maximize the current space. Councilor Pillsbury agreed that the community might except a plan that did not require an addition to the building.
- The Davis Family Foundation authorized a grant of \$20,000 for post school funding, substantially less than the \$60,000 for two years that was requested. Courtney advised that Peter Wagner is working on a project that might be helpful and she will continue to seek alternative grant money.
- The first item in the Library of Things will be made available in May. FreeportCAN (a sustainability nonprofit) has been actively promoting the Library of Things to limit purchases and waste. The Library is coordinating with them, but is not currently in a position to add many of the items on their wish list.
- Courtney advised that she and Meghan would be presenting at the April 4 Town Council meeting later this evening to request a proclamation that May be named the "Freeport Breaks the Silence on Domestic Violence" month. She hopes to distribute posters promoting the issue to local businesses.

- Courtney indicated that she would also be presenting at the April 4 Town Council meeting to request changes to the Administrative Code. She advised that Freeport took over the administrative management and funding of the Library in 1997, but that the Administrative Code had never been updated to properly reflect the change in role of the Library Trustees from providing actual management to being an advisory board. MOTION: Leslie motioned to approve the proposed change to the Administrative Code to properly reflect the limited responsibilities of the Library Board of Trustees. The motion was unanimously approved.

C. Board Vacancy and Term Renewals

Kim reported that she will wait until Jennifer returns before electing officers for the upcoming term. She noted that there is still one vacancy on the Board, which she expects will be filled at the April 4 Town Council meeting tonight.

D. Sunporch Art Project

Kim has reached out to the middle school and high school art teachers to obtain student work, with the intention of showcasing their work on a rotating basis on the Sunporch.

E. Report by Meghan Fogg (Adult Services Librarian)

- Meghan has been at the Library for 6 years and is responsible for adult programming, front desk coverage, meeting room use, Library publicity and communications, adult fiction and graphic novels, adult services (e.g., tech help, reference support), and trouble shooting.
- Her programming attempts to provide something for everyone and is guided by the question, "What can the library uniquely provide for free?" She considers health, environment, and sustainability in creating programs. She highlighted the following programs:
 - Grab and Go continues as a popular program.
 - Armchair Travel. She noted that attendance by the elderly population has dropped off. It was suggested that programs intended for the elderly be scheduled during daylight.
 - Author Lecture Series. These events have had a mixed response. Next week the architects from Pretty Good House will be presenting.
 - Yoga. Yoga continues to have reasonable attendance with 10-12 attending per class.
 - Crafting Groups. In the past, crafting groups were offered and may be considered again in the future.

F. Report by Mary Lehmer (Youth Services Librarian)

- Mary has been with the library for 10 years. She was formerly a teacher and organic farmer. She has a staff of 3.
- The youth programs include:
 - Story Time with "Snow White" is offered two times a week and usually has 20-30 people attending. The reader, Snow White, has created Story Bags, which include a book, game, and toy, for use by parents at the Library on days when she unable to read.
 - Paws to Read. Therapy dogs visit the Library every week for an hour. Several types of dogs participate. The program is extremely popular with children, middle schoolers, adults, and staff.

- Grab and Go. This program started during COVID and remains very popular. Bags contain small, eco-friendly crafts and projects for children to do at home. About 20 to 30 are given out each week. LL Bean and donations cover the cost.
- Petapalooza. This was a large event with therapy dogs and crafts. About 70 people attended.
- Mini golf. About 70 people attended.

G. New Business

- Courtney noted the increased use of audiobooks and e-books and stated that they are increasing Cloud library acquisitions.
- New chairs for the children's room were delivered.
- Board members are invited to be involved with the Friends of the Library. They meet Fridays at 10:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55 pm.