

Minutes of the Library Trustees Meeting
Bushnell-Sage Library
February 9, 2023

Present: Pat Levine, Martin Mitsoff, Joan Powers, Deena Caswell and Sig Spiegel

Pat called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

Minutes from prior meeting (January 19, 2023) were approved as written on a motion by Joan, seconded by Pat, with unanimous approval.

Highlights from DIRECTOR'S REPORT (see full report attached below): Deena noted that the GRIT chair is ready to be borrowed from the Library, with special thanks to Rene Wood for working so closely with Deena on this; video instructions for the chair can be found on the Library website. She noted that sixteen people attended the two training sessions on the chair. Pat recommended that we try to have the chair available for viewing at the next outdoor event in Sheffield, and at Sheffield in Celebration.

Stefanie has been labeling the children's bookshelves by topic, to make it easier for children and parents to locate books of interest, and has also been making changes in the downstairs art room space so that it will be a more function meeting space while the Crossroads exhibit is in the program room. Deena has met with Mount Everett and Undermountain Elementary principals Jesse Carpenter and Charles Miller to discuss participation opportunities during the Crossroads exhibit, with Deena emphasizing planning she is doing on a related school program.

Deena is finalizing the Library report for the Town's annual report. Pat recommended trying to regularize updates for Select Board meetings. Pat asked about collaboration with the senior center; Deena stated that she has reached out to the director there a number of times but has not heard back.

Deena stated that she is having a staff meeting this Saturday that will include all eight employees.

On buildings and grounds, the first floor (main level) toilet is leaking and will need plumbing attention. Martin will follow up with Moran Mechanical regarding the furnace pump repair status. Deena reiterated that it would be essential to have TK Elevator on an "on call" basis before, during and immediately following the conclusion of the Crossroads exhibition at the Library, and that she would try to discuss this need with the town administrator. The status of the front door replacement and a standby generator are still not known.

Crossroads Update: Deena reminded everyone that they should be keeping records of volunteer hours and expenses incurred as it relates to the grant match requirement for the exhibition. Dewey Hall will be contributing an in-kind donation of their space valued at \$6 thousand, and that Fairview Hospital will also be contributing its in-kind donation related to the health initiative to be held at Dewey Hall. The Mass Humanities reception will be held March 31st, and Deena is working with Jen Atwood regarding the invitation and details for the reception.

Friends Items: Sig will follow up with Chris Tomich to establish a meeting date for the landscaping plan Chris prepared.

The next Trustees meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 9th at 8:30 AM.

Martin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:17 AM, seconded by Joan, with unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Mitsoff

Bushnell-Sage Library
Director's Report for February 9, 2023

We have successfully launched the GRIT Freedom Chair as part of our Library of Things. After over a year working with Select Board Chair Rene Wood, the chair is ready for checkout. The main page of the library's website and the Library of Things page feature the GRIT chair and include links to the user manual, the liability form that is signed with each checkout, a frequently asked questions page, and a video recording of one of the trainings hosted at the library. Rene and I were able to connect with Alex Guarco, a representative from the GRIT company. He ran two training sessions with us over Zoom on Wednesday, January 25 and Saturday, January 28. We had a total of 16 people join us in our program room for the two sessions. He was also able to give us permission to make the video recording available through our website so that anyone interested in checking out the GRIT chair can get additional information. The GRIT chair also was featured in an article in the Tuesday, February 7 edition of the Berkshire Eagle. We're very happy to have found a resolution to our earlier storage concerns about the chair to make this device available to the public.

On Friday, January 27, the Berkshire Library Legislative Committee hosted its first in-person breakfast in three years at Bard College at Simon's Rock. Approximately sixty staff, trustees, and Friends from libraries across the county met to network and hear remarks from representatives from the CWMARS network, the Massachusetts Library Association, Massachusetts Library System, Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners, and legislators like Smitty Pignatelli. Speakers were able to discuss the upcoming FY2024 legislative agenda and highlight statewide successes – our K-12 system has the highest digital checkouts in New England, #2 in the country (behind NY), and #3 internationally. I was able to connect with John Weinstein, provost at Simon's Rock, and let him know that he has our library's support in its LGBTQ+ initiatives as well as the program launching in partnership with Mt Everett.

Our weekly "Friday Reset" meditation program has a consistent group of about ten attendees weekly. We have also added a five-program yoga series to Saturday mornings, run by local instructor Senta Reis. The first session ran on Saturday, February 4 and will run through March. Our February art wall reception for Anthony Nordoff drew 26 attendees. Sing & Dance with South Berkshire Kids has been popular in 2023 – one week drew 22 participants.

We have finished with our big weed in fiction and now are working on shifting books and replacing spine labels. Stef is nearly done with her weed of the juvenile collection and has updated signage in juvenile nonfiction. As new space becomes available, we will look to shift Playaways upstairs to join audiobook CDs and better highlight our Library of Things on our main level shelves. Stef has also been working hard to transform the art studio space so that it can become a more functional meeting space while Crossroads lives in our program room.

We are less than two months away from the arrival of the Smithsonian Crossroads exhibit! On Thursday, January 26, Pattie Owen and I had our second interview with Jesse from WSBS to make a last push for calls for submissions for the juried art show, as well as get people excited for the exhibit's arrival. WSBS has been a very welcoming partner to us. When the calendar is finalized, we'll be able to reach out to WSBS, local print media and do larger promotional pushes. On Monday, January 30, I met separately with Jesse Carpenter, the principal of Mt. Everett High School and Charles Miller from Undermountain Elementary to talk Crossroads. We're looking forward to this deepened partnership with schools for school field trips, possible teen volunteer opportunities, and a better relationship past the Smithsonian exhibit. Members of the planning committee met with me on Tuesday, January 31 to go over our grant budget. Arrangements have been made for the delivery and storage of the crates and program room furniture. Groups are working on finalizing event details with a Friday, February 10 deadline so that we can work with Mass Humanities on promotional items.

Our library's annual report is due to Rhonda Friday, February 10. This will include the statistics that I discussed in my presentation to the select board. We have a lot of successes to highlight for the town!

Respectfully submitted,
Deena Caswell

January digital circulation:

Format	Checkouts
OverDrive Listen	200
Kindle Book	136
OverDrive Read	106
OverDrive Magazine	57
Adobe EPUB eBook	17
OverDrive MP3 Audiobook	14
Pending (Audiobook)	3
Pending (eBook)	1
Total	534 (up from 463 in December)

January circulation statistics:

Monthly Circulations (Table) ⓘ

ARIS

Adult Audio (Compact discs (not CD-ROMs), cassettes)

2022 12 2023 01

92 66

Adult Books

1,023 1,124

Adult Materials in electronic format

2 3

Adult Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

33 14

Adult Video cassettes/discs/DVD

663 617

Adult Volumes of Print Periodicals, Newspapers and Other Print Serials

114 87

Childrens Audio (Compact discs (not CD-ROMs), cassettes)

8 14

Childrens Books

885 1,104

Childrens Materials in electronic format

1 2

Childrens Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

3 3

Childrens Video cassettes/discs/DVD

99 34

Young Adult Books

34 62

Young Adult Materials in electronic format

3 4

Young Adult Miscellaneous (e.g. ebook readers, kits, framed art prints, puppets, slide sets, films, filmstrips)

6 3

Young Adult Video cassettes/discs/DVD

2 -

zTOTAL

2,968 3,157