

**Avon Free Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
23 May 2022
6:30 PM on Zoom**

Present: Rebecca Budinger-Mulhearn, Cindy Zhe, Joe Cope, Maureen Wheeler, Josh Tonra, Jaime Lovullo, Peggy Tirrell

Guests: None

Absent:, Helen Zamboni, Tim Batzel (Village Board Liaison), Paul Drozdziel (Town Board Liaison)

Called to order at 6:31 pm

Public Comment:

None.

Minutes:

Approval of the minutes from the 25 April 2022 meeting was moved by Cindy, seconded by Josh, and passed unanimously.

Friends Group:

- The board acknowledged the efforts of the Friends in providing advocacy for the budget vote through an ad in the PennySaver, support for the summer reading program, and donations for the purchase of books in memory of Pamela Leonard. Rebecca will be sending a thank you note to the Friends Group.
- The annual book sale will be held during the Corn Festival. Members of the Friends Group, teachers, and first responders will have access on August 11, and the public sale will be held August 12-13. The Friends would appreciate board presence and support at the book sale.
- On July 9 from 12-3, the Friends will be collecting book donations for the sale in the Tops parking lot. The Friends will also be present at the July 9 mural festival to hand out how-to-draw books that connect to the summer reading theme.

Treasurer's Report:

Jaime presented the Budget Report and Balance Sheet. Approval of the balance sheet was moved by Joe, seconded by Cindy, and passed unanimously. Approval of 8 vouchers was moved by Peggy, seconded by Josh, and passed unanimously.

Director's Report:

Rebecca presented the monthly director's report. Items of note included:

- Rebecca and Maureen presented to the Avon Rotary Club on May 3 prior to the budget vote.
- The library line item in the school budget vote on May 7 was passed.
- Rebecca reported on her attendance at the May 17-18 Spring on the Hill NYLA Advocacy event in Albany.
- The library is in receipt of the Ruby-10 sight assistive technology device and Rebecca has been trained. She will be working with the Avon Lions Club to raise awareness in the community.
- The Library supported several programs and exhibits in partnership with the Avon Preservation and Historical Society as part of Local History Month.
- The library will be hosting a memorial afternoon tea for Pamela Leonard on June 4, 1-3pm.
- Updated circulation and door counts.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities:
 - Facilities continues work on backyard planning; Josh reported that the Rotary Club expressed interest in helping support the project.
- Finance:
 - Maureen presented an addendum to the previous backyard proposal from LaBella focused on parking in the rear. This would expand LaBella's planning to address widening of the driveway, drainage, lighting, preparation for site plan approval by the village, and a cost/benefit analysis on options for improving handicap accessibility. The cost of the addendum will be \$4,200.
 - The proposal to approve the addendum and authorize \$4,200 in funding for additional planning work by La Bella was moved by Peggy, seconded by Cindy, and passed unanimously.
- Personnel: No report.
- Policy: No report.

Old Business

None

New Business

- Lawn Care and Snow Removal
 - Rebecca provided an update on lawn care and snow removal for the library. This spring, the village has been mowing the backyard but cannot assist with the front lawn because it needs a push mower. Efforts to secure a lawn care provider have not been successful.
 - Rebecca suggested that the library could consider exploring the possibility of having someone on payroll who could mow with appropriate coverage under the library's insurance policy.
 - This would require the purchase of a mower and other equipment. The approximate cost for equipment would be \$950, and a move in this direction would need to address storage (both in the short-term and as part of the broader backyard plan).
 - Hiring a part-time employee to mow would cost roughly \$3,000 per year; the library has volunteers willing to mow in the meantime.
 - In the fall, the library may also need to purchase a snowblower too..
 - A proposal to charge the finance committee with investigating and purchasing a mower, equipment/accessories, and storage shed up to \$2,000 was moved by Peggy, seconded by Josh, and passed unanimously.

- Long Range Plan/2-Year Strategy
 - Maureen and Rebecca reviewed the 2-year strategy, which will expire at the end of 2022. This document established core priorities in advancing the backyard project, developing community partnerships, and restarting programming post-pandemic.
 - Given the ongoing disruptions posed by the pandemic and the timeline for developing a long-range plan, Maureen suggested extending the 2-year strategy through the 2023 calendar year, with a new long-range plan to take effect in January 2024.
 - A proposal to extend the 2-year strategy through the end of 2023 was moved by Peggy, seconded Cindy, and passed unanimously.

- Library budget votes: Rebecca reported on the results of regional school board budget votes pertaining to library funding.

Adjournment at 7:17pm was moved by Peggy, seconded by Cindy, and passed unanimously.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 27, 2022 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joe Cope
Secretary