

Maud Preston Palenske Memorial Library Meeting Of the Board of Trustees November 27, 2018

President Ren Baldwin called the meeting to order at 6:00pm. Other board members present Rick Ast, Melissa Clapper, Liz Darato (P), Mimi Elwell, Bill Engeln, Jim Kodis, Stephanie Mack, and Patrice Rose

Also Present: Stephanie Masin-Director, Paula Stakely-Assistant Director

Absent: None

Visitors: Ginny Antonsin , Rebeca Marsden

Announcements: Mr Baldwin read a thank you card from Jodi Wilson relating the pleasure her family takes from the library.

Public Comment: NONE

Friends of the Library : The Children's Book Sale was held the first week of November. They made \$767.95. Ms. Antonsin shared the new logo for Friends of the Library. It will be used for book bags and book marks with The Friends information to promote name recognition. Their next meeting is in 2 Saturdays.

Approval of the Minutes:

It was moved by Ms Elwell and supported by Mr. Kodis to approve the October 23, 2018 minutes . Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report:

Mr. Engeln reviewed the financials. The budget is looking good so far this year.

Approval of the bills:

Mr. Engeln reviewed the bills for \$41,763.18 for October 2018.and noted that there were some significant items for payment this time. He reviewed several.

Mr. Engeln made a motion to approve payment of the October 2018 bills in the amount of \$41,763.18. Supported by Mr. Ast. Motion passed.

New Business: Library Priority Survey-Internal Results were reviewed by the Building Subcommittee. The Board requested Ms. Masin sort and collate the responses for their review after the first of the year. It is a precursor to identification of priorities

for a Marketing Survey. It was noted that the preliminary review showed many commonalities between staff and Board responses.

Animal Aid Reindog Fundraiser - Event Room Use Request Moved by Mr. Kodis supported by Ms Elwell to let Animal Aid use the room. Motion Passed.

Old Business: Attorney Feedback - Mr. Engeln noted that the City Attorney and the Library attorney have both offered an opinion on Title to the property and who owns the building. Both say the city owns the property and there are no deed restrictions limiting it to library use. Both believe the building is owned by the city, relying on the theory that when something is placed on the land, it is affixed to the land and ownership falls to the landowner. Mr. Engeln believes there may be a leap of faith here because the money was given to the library Board. So the first question of ownership is who paid for it, controlled and built the Library.

Mr. Engeln looked at the title search documents. There is a concept of adverse possession where title to land can be lost through squatters rights. It occurs when the squatters take possession, occupy and act like an owner, and the real owner does not ask them to leave. After 15 years a court could grant statutory or adverse action. Permission will kill the adverse action. He feels permission was probably not granted within that 15 year timeframe.

Mr Engeln noted that his comments are not a legal opinion. There is no intent to create an adversarial position with the city. And, he would recommend consultation with the library attorney(s) before the Board take any action
Board members will review the White Paper documents being sent out.

Mr. Engeln questioned whether it would be better for the library to own the land and the building or whether “we’re better off just as we are”. Mr. Baldwin said relations with the city are “relatively improving,” and noted that the District Library discussion “is still out there.”

Ms. Masin advised that the Fire Panel repair is still in progress

Director’s Report: (Including Statistics)

Ms. Masin noted that the new microfilm reader and computer are up and running in the Genealogy Room. This item and several genealogy books were purchased with the George Jaeger donation. The “Adulting” series has been opened up to 20 something patrons per user request, and the series is well attended..

The Annual Appeal letter has been sent out and copies will also be made available on giving Tuesday at the Library. The Library is also participating with Fandomfest and has scheduled a fundraising night with Silver Harbor.

Ms. Masin said she wanted to make “a donation from myself” for a mural by the Children’s Library. The High School and Middle School Art classes are conforming to a strict curriculum” and could not take part. Another option may be Sophia Pavese, a high school artist. Ms. Masin passed around a scrap book with samples of Ms. Pavese’s work.

President Comments:

None

Board Comments:

Ms. Rose reported on a course she had taken on Mental Health First Aid, offered through Lakeland. Ms. Masin noted that library staff will be taking the course in January or February.

Mr. Baldwin asked Ms. Masin to include separate attendance figures for events.

Adjournment:

It was moved by Mr. Kodis and supported by Mr. Ast to adjourn the meeting at 7:16pm. Motion carried.

Next Board meeting - January 22, 2019 at 6:00pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Stephanie Mack

Secretary