

KIMBALL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
OCTOBER 10, 2023
*APPROVED 11/14/23

ATTENDANCE:

Jill Ottow, Chair	Karen Brown, Director
Karen Moss, Vice Chair	Nina Gray, Alternate Trustee
Karen Trasatti, Secretary	Patty Murphy, Alternate Trustee
Marnie Finn, Treasurer	
Pam Borisko, Trustee	

Call to Order: 3:48pm

Secretary's Report:

- 9/11/23 Budget Workshop Minutes

Motion by Pam, seconded by Karen M to approve budget workshop minutes of 9/11/23. Motion passed 5 Yes, 0 No.

- 9/12/23 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion by Jill, seconded by Karen M to amend the 9/12/23 meeting minutes to include under Director's Report: "budget is more than 75% through budget year with a balance of 34% remaining with substantial bills coming due" and "programs (up 41%) and attendees (up 44%) since last August". 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

Motion by Karen M, seconded by Jill to strike "delegated to Director" under Old Business, 3rd bullet. 3 Yes, 2 No. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: September 2023

- General Account: \$ 22,877.85
Includes Ruth Campbell \$3,042.30 & Copy \$-75.86
- Fines Account: \$ 2,980.97
- Savings Account: \$ 12,928.39
Includes Elizabeth Smith \$8,679.15
- 8 Passports \$ 280.00
- 1 Donation: \$ 4.00
- 1 New Non-Resident \$ 65.00

Previous donation of \$400.00 spent on Flying Dog program.

Motion by Jill, seconded by Pam to accept Treasurer's report for September and the acceptance of \$4.00 donation. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

Director's Report:

- 26.6% remaining in the budget. Propane cost in 2024 will be 18% less than last year. COLA is set at 2%. Original proposed 2024 library budget reduced by almost \$6,000.
- Circulation, econtent, programs, and attendance all increased over last year.
- Thank you to George Family Charities for adding fall flowers to the front garden.
- Upcoming: 4 NH Humanities programs, AARP free tax assistance program coming to the library (seeking volunteers), Flying high dogs.

Old Business:

- Discussion regarding Trustee Job Description document as discussed during last month's meeting. Karen T requested it be noted under Secretary duty to post all meetings include: *currently performed by Director*

Motion by Karen, seconded by Pam to add to the Trustee Job Description document under Secretary duties, item a: The Secretary shall post all meetings as required by law *currently performed by the Director*. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

New Business:

- 2024 Holiday Schedule

Motion by Marnie, seconded by Pam to accept 2024 Holiday Schedule as presented. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

- Service Animals: Director Brown provided Trustees with a new policy draft "Animals in the Kimball Library".

Motion by Karen M, seconded by Pam B to accept Animals in the Kimball Library policy as presented. 5 Yes, 0 No. Motion passed.

- Unity: Trustee Pam Borisko read an email sent by Chair Ottow to the Trustee Board and the Director on 9/16/23 titled "Unity". Discussion followed of Jill's intent of sending the email and comments by Trustees.

Dear Trustees:

Thank you again for the time and effort you put into the budget process reviewing a lot of complex information in two budget workshops and at our regular monthly meeting this week. With the unprecedented event of not having unanimous support for the 2024 budget, I am writing to speak to a few things around our common goals that we have agreed upon through our By-laws and Trustee Job Descriptions.

I believe in and embrace the dynamic of a working board with diverse viewpoints and rigorous discussions.

I also believe that working together is paramount, and working divisively does not align with our role to support the Library mission and ensure its needs are met. I believe the Library is best served when we present a unified voice in the community.

So, yes, non-unity on single board actions exists when some vote in favor and some vote against as part of Trustee business. That is and should be expected. According to the attorney I spoke with at the NH Municipal Association, once a majority vote has taken place, it is best practice that we are unified in the community. Including an agreement to support board decisions in the Trustee Job Descriptions just this week is a great coincidence that solidifies our intent for that best practice.

Can and will we each still hold the view we held when we voted on that issue? Of course. However, it does not help the Library and fill our role as Trustees for any one individual Trustee to go into the community after a vote and express that disagreement. It's about leadership and how the Trustees are perceived, not about any one issue.

The old adage that perception is 99% of reality has much truth to it. A perception that the Board of Trustees doesn't work as a unit can lead to a reputation that the Library board is dysfunctional. This may not hurt the today but it would over time.

Again, I am not trying to squelch viewpoints or bring voting into a single line. Yet, if the community does not see the board functioning as whole, it hurts the Library. I respect each of you and your views, and I hope we each will use discretion toward our common goal of our love of the Library and interest in its perpetuity as one of the most valued assets in Atkinson.

Next Trustee meeting: November 14, 2023 @ 3:45pm

Adjournment: 4:36pm

Respectfully submitted by,
Karen Trasatti, Secretary