

Medway Library Board of Trustees

Final Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2023 7:03 p.m.

Medway Library

Members Present: John Smith, Greg Peverill-Conti, Lisa Sheehan, Julie MacEvoy, Margaret Perkins,

Members Absent: Nutan Mathew

Others Present: Erin McCarthy - Guest Sculptor, Gail Hachenburg - Cultural Council

A. Approval of May Agenda - Approved

B. Approval of April minutes - Approved

C. Citizens Speak

Ms. Hachenburg gave some background information to the Trustees about the Cultural Council's desire to have a sculpture for Medway made and housed at the library. The Cultural Council wanted the sculpture to be diverse and welcoming to everyone in town. The Council approached Erin McCarthy about creating the sculpture. Ms. McCarthy addressed the Trustees about her ideas for a sculpture. Ms. McCarthy designed a sculpture inspired by the more romantic themes of diversity and inclusion. Ms. McCarthy described the idea for her sculpture as two children looking up and admiring a star together. One of the children is a female with a physical handicap and is reaching up to touch the star. The star will be shaped more like a diamond with the idea that it could light up at night and come to life. Ms. McCarthy approached the Trustees about getting their opinion about getting signage to accompany the statue to accompany her design. Ms. McCarthy stated that the female statue will have African American features and the male statue will have caucasian features. Ms. McCarthy stated that she worked with a woman who teaches at the University of Kentucky and wrote a book about racial bias in America. This woman advised Ms. McCarthy about sending the right message. This woman advised Ms. McCarthy that the female touching the star has to be the one with the physical handicap. Ms. Hachenburg informed that the physical handicap displayed is more of a brace. Ms. McCarthy consulted many parents of children with physical handicaps, and through discussions, decided that the physical handicap should not be the first thing noticed when looking at the sculpture, as that is not the theme. Ms. McCarthy stated that because inclusivity

spreads to more than just race, she also wanted to make one of the children in the statue larger than the other. In the statue, the African American child is the female with the disability, who is larger than the boy, and the one reaching the star. The statue will be bolted into the concrete but moveable if necessary. Ms. McCarthy asked the Trustees for thoughts and opinions on a sign that says Medway Public Library to accompany the statue that would replace the old sign. Ms. Hachenburg informed the Trustees that the Cultural Council is funding the sculpture and mentioned that funding for the sign will have to come from grants and perhaps the library could contribute if it wanted to.

Mr. Peverill-Contie made a motion that the Trustees accept the proposal and agree to work to further its completion and installation at the library, seconded by Ms. MacEvoy, approved by all.

D. New Business

- Finalize our Strategic Plan

The Trustees discussed how to go about finalizing the Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. Ms. Perkins stated that the results of a focus group needed to be included in the plan. The Trustees went through the feedback from the focus group and discussed how to proceed with reworking the Strategic Plan. The Trustees discussed having the Strategic Plan serve as a general umbrella for improvement with more specific action plans to address certain goals in the Strategic Plan. Ms. Perkins volunteered to write the methodology of the library by the next meeting, June 6th. Mr. Peverill-Conti offered to summarize the focus group findings. The Trustees agreed to have the methodology and focus group summary distributed by June 4th for review by the members.

- Outreach and engagement update

Ms. Perkins reported that the first work and coffee and muffin event occurred last week. The library had one patron show up. Cookies and coffee, tea, and hot chocolate were provided as options. Ms. Perkins reported that the middle school after school program has been popular and well attended. Ms. Perkins reported to the Trustees that the library is teaming up with Medfield library for a Pride party for middle school aged kids that will include music, dancing, games, etc... Mr. Peverill-Conti and Mr. Smith stated they would be attending Medway Pride Day on behalf of the library.

F. Review incident reports

No incidents were reported.

G. Budget Report

There were no questions about the budget.

H. Director's Report

Ms. MacEvoy asked about the people's counter. Ms. Perkins reported that it was basically an electronic eye on both doors. The counter counts visits, not individual people. 4,468 visits occurred last month. The Trustees asked to change the language in the report to say the People Counter reported visits rather than people.

I. Adjournment - 9:08pm

The next meeting date is tentatively set for Tuesday, June 6th 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Justin Tucker