

Wellesley Free Library Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes
Arnold Room
December 6, 2016

Present: Marla Robinson, Chair; Ann Howley, Vice Chair; Ann-Mara Lanza, Secretary; Diane Savage, Beth Sullivan Woods, Trustees; Jamie Jurgensen, Library Director; Elise MacLennan, Assistant Director; Helen Charbonneau, IT Director.

Also present: Alena Poirier, Advisory liaison; Darcy Bartel; WFLF Chair; Jennifer Seidman, Director of Development.

Absent: Maura Murphy

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:15 P.M.

CITIZEN COMMENT

None.

ITEMS

1. Sunday schedule

Point of information for budgeting consideration: FY18 has 39 potential open Sundays from between the Sunday after Labor Day to the end of June.

2. Budget FY18

The Trustees reviewed a draft of the operating budget for FY18. It was noted that this is a contract year. It is likely that negotiations will begin in January. Until a new contract is ratified, it is impossible to have firm numbers for personal services. Increases that can now be included are minimum wage increases, longevity, and step raises.

3. Branch discussion

The Trustees have been approached by donors and Foundation directors with questions about why, after eight years of successful operation, the branch libraries have not yet been restored to the municipal operating budget. From the "basket" of services eliminated in 2005, Spanish has been restored to the elementary schools and the DPW has restored Sunday hours. The Hills branch in particular has been embraced by the community and provides unique and important space and services. Use of the Fells, which was rented for years to the WCCC in order to provide income for the maintenance of both branch libraries, is now under review as a potential site for an early literacy library. With these points in mind, the Trustees resolved to consider drafts of alternative operating budgets for FY18.

The Trustees examined two drafts of operating budgets for FY18: one including basic operating costs for both branch libraries and another including basic operating costs for only the Hills Branch. There followed extensive discussion about the potential change. Are the Branch Libraries enhancements or have they proved to be a core library service for Wellesley? Statistics show increases in visitors and circulation of materials. Hills in particular plays an important role in providing library service and taking community meeting space pressure off of the Main Library. There has been positive feedback from community members who have learned about this possibility.

Ultimately, there was agreement that while the future of the Fells Branch is still a work in progress, the Hills Branch Library provides the Town with important and worthwhile benefits; it is a proven success and presents a stable model of core library service. There was consensus to continue serious consideration of an FY18 operating budget that includes basic operating costs for the Hills Branch Library (salaries for part time employees and building utilities). Other expenses would continue to be privately funded, as would the entire Fells Branch budget.

Next steps agreed upon by the Board included the following:

- Discussion with FMD about how assuming expenses of personal services for Hills Branch custodians, utilities and other maintenance costs will impact that department's budget.
- Official FY18 budget vote at Board of Library Trustees meeting of Monday, December 19th.
- Meeting with Advisory in January.

ADJOURNMENT

Beth moved (Ann-Mara seconded) to adjourn. The motion was approved unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:50 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann-Mara Lanza, Secretary, WFL Board of Trustees

Date: _____

LIST of DOCUMENTS

DOCUMENTS DISTRIBUTED AT MEETING

1. Budget Drafts

ECM 12-22-16, reviewed by AH 1/5/17, approved 1/9/17