**Franklin Public Library**

**Board of Directors Meeting Minutes**

**May 1, 2023**

**Present**: Charleen Belcher, Kathleen Gerwatowski, Amanda Rabbitt, Barbara Steele, Alison Wallace of the Board, and Library Director Felicia Oti.

**Call to Order**: Charleen called the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Comment**: None

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March meeting were approved.

**Report of the Board Members:**

**Alison:** Alison’s neighbor is a substitute teacher in the elementary schools. She asked her about handwriting instruction in the schools. Alison learned that handwriting instruction is limited to a page or two in a workbook during third grade.

**Barbara:** Barbara attended the choral group event at the library. It was participatory and very enjoyable. However, only 12 people attended.Felicia noted that Sundays might be a better day.

**Kathleen:** Kathleen shared a recent article about a new online resource called *Craft & Hobby*. It would compete with CreativeBug but has a community component. Felicia will investigate. Kathleen also shared an article about a potential charitable initiative for Project Linus. Participants make blankets for children in traumatic or difficult situations. Other libraries have held these workshops and the blankets provide comfort in times of crisis.

**Facilities Use Policy:** The proposed draft was revised again. The changes will be incorporated into the existing document and will be approved next month.

**Library Director’s report:** The Town’s FY24 budget isunder consideration.$24K was added to the library budget to adjust the compensation for library staff. This increase will make Franklin’s salaries competitive with comparable communities.

**Crisis Communication:** Felicia attended a webinar on crisis communication. She learned thatFranklin has been fortunate that patrons or groups have not challenged library selections or programs. Felicia found the webinar extremely informative. She hopes to proactively prepare the library staff in case issues arrive in the future, as they have in other Massachusetts communities. The Board was given a packet of material to read before the next meeting to determine if the public comment policy requires updating.

**Library Services Update:** Felicia displayed a lovely lotus lantern which will be offered at a workshop on May 6th. A graphic novelist is scheduled to speak to teens. This age group is reading graphic novels. A health fair is coming on May 24th from 3 – 6 pm. Twenty vendors are expected. Weather permitting, the fair will be held outside. Last year 480 people attended so we’re hopeful to match or exceed this number. On June 1st the Community Wide Read will launch *The Lioness of Boston*, a historical fiction novel about Isabella Stewart Gardner. Suggestions were given for a display of related items and books to accompany the Community Wide Read.

**Next meeting:** The next meeting will be held on June 26, 2023.

**Agenda for next month:** Next month we will discuss the facilities use policy, public comment policy, and the FY24 budget.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Gerwatowski