

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BERKLEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

May 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. In attendance were Chairperson Carla Ross-Lyman, Trustee Megan Silva, Trustee Paula Dugan, Library Director Carol Buote, Friends of the Library President Catherine Charette, and Secretary Linda Andrade Rodrigues. The next meeting was set for Tuesday, June 11, 2024.

The Meeting Minutes of April 9, 2024 was read and approved. Paula Dugan motioned, Megan Silva seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE: Carla Ross-Lyman AYE
 Paula Dugan AYE
 Megan Silva AYE

CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN REPORT

Erica Grady submitted a report from April 10 through May 14. The Children's Room has been busy this period with the following programs and events:

Three Story Time programs with stories and simple crafts for 25 preschool-age children. Craft materials were funded by The Friends of the Library;

Four VolunTEENS programs with 16 attendees. Youths ages 12-17 volunteer to help with a variety of library tasks;

Two Writing Circle programs with 17 attendees. Ages 12+ gather to write and share. Thank you to Jess G. for volunteering her time to run this program;

The Pokemon Club met once with 16 attendees. They talked, traded and played BINGO;

A Harry Potter event was presented by Lucy S. It was a great success! Fourteen attendees played games and trivia;

Brave Books hosted a Story Time on Saturday, April 13 with 11 attendees.

Erica Grady started soliciting for summer reading program donations. The summer reading group will run from June 22 through August 23. They have received a Treetops adventure ticket as a raffle item so far and expect more to come. The Friends of the Library fund much of this program, and a Berkley Cultural Council grant will fund the kickoff event with Mr. Vinny.

They connected with Brittany F. from the Taunton Family Resource Center who is providing Taunton-area information and resources to our community. This currently includes a diaper program, a grandparents' informational and full calendar of programs and events.

They also partnered with Neighborhood Forest to give away 77 free white pine saplings to kids who pre-registered in March. Trees have been received and distributed.

The latest stats for juvenile and young adult circulation show 1,041 in March and 884 in April.

Educate Station went live on our website in March, and we have 73 page visits with 23 downloads of material. They hope this continues to be utilized.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

For the May 2 book club meeting, 6 attendees discussed *"The River" by Peter Heller*. Some liked the book and others didn't. They selected *"Then She Was Gone"* by Lisa Jewell for the June meeting.

The Knot Just Knitting meetings in April had 18 participants.

Virtual Trivia also met on April 20 with 18 participants.

The adult book displays this month are "Self Care is Always in Style" and "Center for the Book Reading Challenge book suggestions – Graphic Novels".

The library had issues with mice and ants this month. It seems to be under control at this point.

They have also had several issues with the alarm system batteries. They shouldn't need to be replaced so soon.

Four new stackable chairs were purchased for the Children's Room. The old chairs are falling apart and are not stackable, and they needed those for the small space. If they like these, they may purchase more—if the funds are available.

Carol Buote attended the SAILS Membership meeting and two Department Head meetings.

The library received the 2nd state aid award of \$8,333.35, totaling for the year \$16,530.48.

The Director and staff are all trying to fit in their vacation and personal days before the end of the fiscal year. Carol Buote will be covering the desk a lot in the coming month.

They are also assisting the Friends with their Matching Grant Campaign, with the Friends handling most of it.

FRIENDS' REPORT

The Friends met on April 15, 2024.

Their Matching Grant campaign is winding down with the end date of April 18. The coin collection cards have been a hit, and the children have been returning them steadily. Thanks to all who have donated. They have approximately \$5,700 donated, with a match which brings them to \$11,400.

The Friends are looking into applying for grants from local banks, retail giving funds, etc. with the help of Children's Librarian Erica Grady. They may not qualify for some but will apply where they can. Any little bit helps our library.

As a reminder, anyone interested in joining their Friends group, meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 7 p.m. at the library. Reach out at any time which questions or concerns.

NEW BUSINESS

Carol Buote has been having numerous FY25 budget discussions. The library budget may get drastic cuts. She emailed the MBLC, and they say that the budget can be lower than last year—it just has to meet the MAR (Municipal Appropriations Requirement). They are finally getting their union salary increases for FY24, which changes their FY24 budget bottom line. She had the MAR listed as \$161,745.00, but it should be \$162,305.09. She hasn't been able to get a copy of her new budget nor information about what her bottom line is. The Finance Committee meetings are not available to view on our cable channel. The budget will be presented at the Board of Selectmen meeting on April 15, and she will be able to attend.

NEW LIBRARY/BUILDING PROJECT

For the Construction Grant process, Carol Buote attended two Construction Committee meetings and worked with Patricia Bastler on the application. They have a final draft of the Library Building Program part of the application for review and approval.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

Megan Silva made a motion to nominate Carla Ross-Lyman for another term as Chairperson of the Board of Library Trustees, and Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE:	Carla Ross-Lyman	AYE
	Megan Silva	AYE
	Paula Dugan	AYE

ADJOURN

Megan Silva made a motion to adjourn at 8:20 p.m., and Paula Dugan seconded. All voted in favor.

VOTE:	Carla Ross-Lyman	AYE
	Megan Silva	AYE

Paula Dugan AYE

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Andrade Rodrigues