

Brown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes – 5/20/25

Present: Maryann Beaupre (President, Chair), John Stevens (Treasurer), Tossy Garrett (Secretary taking minutes), Dale Kunkel (assistant Treasurer), Sherri Brickey (Director), Gail Hall (MAL), Kelly Murch (MAL), Rebecca Pearish (Youth Librarian). Absent: Denise MacMartin (Vice Chair).

5:00- Meeting Called to Order (Maryann). Meeting called to order & agenda review, no changes needed.

5:00- Previous Minutes (Tossy). Dale moved to accept the April minutes, John seconded; voted & approved.

5:01- Treasurer's report (Dale). Last month we took out some money for Rebecca's book order for the Lance Foundation giveaway at the school, and we have 3 paychecks this month so lots of expenses but overall things are as expected. Gail mentioned that Rebecca received a small donation for the Lego Robotics teachers workshop she held last month. Kelly moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Tossy seconded, voted & approved.

5:04- Librarian's Report (Sherri). Sherri went through the stats for last month, April was busy. The monthly watercolor class happened as well as a poetry reading which will continue into the summer. The seed catalog is still happening for another week and it has been popular. For the youth library, Rebecca reported that in addition to the regular youth event schedule she held a YA book group, the LEGO robotics club & a 'crafternoon.' The summer reading program is being planned as well, and she is shifting storytime from Mondays to Wednesdays.

Rebecca on Lego Robotics topic: Rebecca has been starting with the Lego Robotics program and the kids have been having fun- she has been thinking about starting a FIRST Lego Robotics team which would need parents to volunteer and fundraise, but the library could help by providing a dedicated space. She and a potential parent volunteer have identified the nook downstairs where we currently store our book sale books as a good potential space. This would mean finding a different space for the book storage. We discussed using the storage room which currently has a lot of misc. items many of which we could probably get rid of. The LEGO program would start in the Fall, which would also be a good time (after Labor Day) to relocate the book storage. We would have this Summer to clear out the storage room in preparation. Sherri and John will go look at the old computer equipment, file cabinets, etc to see what can get thrown away. Kelly wondered if we could partner with the Historical Society to find room there, and the board thought that between keeping good relations with them and the town, and based on past discussions of space, they may not be open to this. There is also an issue in that building of heating in the winter. Kelly may explore this privately, outside her role at the library. There was further discussion of book shelf moving and/or replacement and book storage. Kelly asked if this program was something that would cost families money to participate in, Rebecca said the goal is that it would not, but they may need to do some fundraising. The board approves the use of space.

5:18- Old Business:

- 1. Mural-** Leslie Striebe called Sherri today and asked to have the posters on the Community Room wall taken down so she can start priming it in preparation for the mural. She will be painting during the first two weeks of June with her group of students.
- 2. Community Room Chairs-** we have gotten the four samples, which Sherri thinks look sturdy. There is also a cart coming for chair storage. Wheels for the tables have not been found yet.

Rebecca wondered if we could leave some chairs around the tables instead of picking them all up every time. We could set a maximum number to be left and also a chart of how to leave them on the wall for Community Room renters.

3. **Staff/Volunteer Bathroom Floor-** the floor is still torn up, we haven't asked the town to replace it yet. John would like to replace the floor outside the bathroom door as well. Maybe we can find a flooring person and find an estimate- we could offer to split the cost with the town, if we purchase materials and they covered labor. Kelly is thinking that it might be helpful to document past items we have asked the town for and how long it has taken us to hear back from the town about them and then get action. This would help us be clear in the list of work we need, and hopefully also help the town understand our priorities. Kelly will take this on and bring it to the board.
4. **Fax Machine-** Our new machine is not functioning as a fax machine (the printer functions fine), we have a call in to RB Tech to help get it running.

5:25- New Business

1. **Bathroom Door Privacy-** Sherri made a sign and put it above the lock, so there are instructions in place to help people understand how to fully lock the door.
2. **Pass Renewal-** the Billings Museum pass expires at the end of May, which is \$250 for a 4-person pass. Last year it had 12 uses. The VINS pass is good until July and it had 19 uses (Sherri didn't have the price on hand). The State Parks has a second pass for \$50, but we didn't need that last year. We approved the renewal of the Billings pass.

5:48- Other business:

1. Kelly would like to request always having a remote option for attending meetings. John said the town uses GoTo Meeting, Zoom and Teams. Kelly is willing to do the legwork to make it happen. We discussed some logistics and will go forward.
2. **Cedar Trees & Gate-** The cover over the roof by the cedars has rotting wood. John is asking if Norwich might be able to help with that as a project (replacing with metal roof rather than boards). John has purchased the hinges for fixing the gate, and will fix it when its not raining. Rebecca hoped it might be finished in 2 Saturdays before the first outdoor storytime and John said it should be done by then.
3. John mentioned that the flagpole is gone, the strong wind blew it and the upper part of the lamp to the ground last week. Jeff mentioned that he would order 2 stanchions for repair, John will follow up with him.

6:01- Public Comment: no public present.

6:01 – Dale moved to adjourn the meeting, John seconded; voted & moved. Meeting adjourned.