

PARSONS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
July 1, 2019

Present: Dominique Zulueta, Tom Collins, Cherry Chretien, Marti Northover, Tom Stonehouse, Karen Spiliopoulos, Gus Hedden, Joyce Wood, Eileen Connolly
Meeting started at 7:05

Library Director's report was read and accepted.

- Still waiting on window repair quote
- Copier has issues, and may require replacement
- Elevator is working and has a certificate, but certification must be renewed in September.
- Grants received: \$1000 from Maine Public Library and \$4000 from Stephen and Tabitha King Foundation.
- Concert series scheduled: July 16 and August 11

Secretary's minutes were accepted. Dominique submitted June minutes in Eileen's absence.

Treasurer's report was accepted.

- A future meeting will address using funds from checking for a CD. Endowment committee will be needed for this. Another CD matures in November.

Correspondence

- There was no correspondence.

Old Business

- Survey: More than 60 responses so far. Promotions will continue until July 31st.
- Festival: Gus will run book cart drill with volunteers. Dominique and Eileen will work the coloring contest booth. The Friends welcome help with book sale the Wednesday before festival.
- Gus: Wednesday is Gus's last working day; he has banked vacation time until August. He will cover Saturday, July 6 and Sundays through July with pay, and continue to accrue bank time. Gus will train volunteers on Sundays.

At 7:27 Dominique made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Eileen seconded the motion, and the board approved. At 7:34 Dominique made a motion to end executive session. It was seconded by Eileen and approved by the board. Karen and Gus left the group; meeting continued.

New Business

- A handout was given on updates to the town website and new procedures.
- The president addressed the board. Among other things, she noted that on June 11 two trustees were elected to retain their seats on the board. The president called for election of officers.
- Discussion of trustee roles and the bylaws governing board. Dominique will scan and email bylaws for review and future discussion.
- Marti and Cherry will work to solve the trustee email problem.
- Director search: Marti will place ad in Shopper. Eileen will post to UME Augusta website. Dominique will make a small flyer to print, display, email blast, and post to social media and the town website. A draft will follow.
- Volunteer coverage (20 hours a week through July) will be needed starting Monday, 7/8. Dominique will coordinate volunteers in 2 hour shifts. Dominique, Tom C., Marti, Cherry, and Eileen offered to take shifts. Requests for patron and community volunteers will be made through personal contact and social media.
- A public statement on Gus's resignation will be released pending his approval.
- Two Friends and two patrons will be included in the review of resumes for new director as well as in generating interview questions. Marti and Eileen will conduct interviews, and a representative from town government will be invited.
- Gus will be asked for information on contacts and key holders.
- Election of officers was not accomplished.

Meeting adjourned at 9pm

Next meeting: July 15, at 6pm in the library

Respectfully submitted,
Eileen Connolly, Secretary

Town of Alfred website & Parsons Memorial Library

This is good news! The only questions I asked at last month's Candidate Night were about the town website and improved communication. Alfred residents will benefit from this - knowledge is power.

MEMORANDUM

To: Heads of Departments/Committee Chairs
From: Board of Selectmen
Date: June 25, 2019
Re: Use of the Town Web-Site by Departments/Committees

We have had several comments/complaints of the lack of information on the Town's Web-Site. In order to address these concerns we have assigned Donna Pirone the task of keeping it up to date with agendas, minutes, event notices and any other information including pictures for all of our Departments and Committees.

She will not be able to do this without your help. We are requesting that you send, well in advance, meeting agendas and minutes as soon as they are approved, as well as any pictures or added news that will help to "boost" the look of our Site.

If you have any questions or comments, please call Joyce Wood at 324-5872 ext 202 and she will be glad to work with you.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Donna's great to work with and this will help keep library information current and accessible, which aligns with the Maine State Library's answer to the question, "What is a Library?"

The library's mission is to provide access to the world of information and ideas. In the past, that information was in manuscripts or books. Because the first libraries opened before the invention of the printing press and books were painstakingly copied out by hand, they were scarce and expensive. Libraries served as archives and chained these rare volumes to the tables.

Times have changed. We are inundated with information 24 hours a day. Libraries no longer need to serve as guardians of a scarce resource. The role of today's library is about community impact more than collections. Today's libraries are community centers and community builders connecting people to ideas, people to people and people to community. Libraries facilitate knowledge creation and are places of social engagement and learning. Today's library patrons should see opportunities to contribute and have a voice in the library. In the words of David Lankes "Bad libraries build collections, good libraries build services, great libraries build communities."

I respectfully add, if you're attending a library event (or really any community activity), please take pictures or share your experience. Trustees', Friends' and patrons' pictures and comments are great content for an email blast, a social media post, newspaper blurb, or the tidbit on the bulletin board that starts new conversations.