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Library Board of Trustees
Edgartown Public Library
26 West Tisbury Road, Edgartown, MA
MINUTES

Meeting of Thursday, June 13, 2024

In the Foster Room

Olga Church called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Trustees in attendance: Olga Church, David Faber, Nis Kildegaard, Julie Lively, Denise Searle

Absences: Maggie Morrison

Guests: Lisa Sherman, Library Director; David Ignacio, president of the Friends of the Library; Rizwan Malik, EPL reference and technology librarian; Jelisa Difo, EPL department assistant.

Review of Minutes:

MOTION: To accept the April 11 and May 9 minutes as presented

MOVED, David Faber. **Seconded,** Olga Church. **ACTION:** Unanimous.

Friends Report: David Ignacio reported that the Friends will be holding their June meeting and Annual meeting at the library on Friday, June 14. The slate of officers to be presented includes Ann Tyra, president; Joan Dunayer, vice president; David Ignacio, treasurer; Carol Swiech, secretary, and Cornelia Hurst, membership. The Trustees thanked David, whose term as president is ending, for the Friends' support for the library staff's trip to the biennial Public Library Association convention in April. That trip was made possible in part by a major gift from the Herbert and Anita Foster Staff Education Fund, which the Friends had established in 2021.

Staff Reports on PLA Conference:

- Rizwan Malik and Jelisa Difo shared presentations on their experience of the Public Library Association's national conference in Columbus, Ohio. "Going to a conference like this really reinvigorates your interest and opens your eyes to what you can do," Rizwan said. He said he learned a lot about resources he can tap in his reference work on behalf of library patrons, and also about emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, that are changing the world of information and disinformation. Said Jelisa, "This was such a life-changing, life-affirming event for me." The conference was a reminder, she said, of how the work of the library is of service to the entire community. Jelisa said her focus was on learning about "how can I utilize data, how can I utilize the work I do with budgets, how can I work and collaborate with my colleagues to better serve our community." She said one core realization she came away from PLA with is an appreciation for what a high-functioning and well-supported department the Edgartown Library is: "When I

heard panelists talking about all of the obstacles public libraries have, from book bans to budget cuts, I felt so blessed to be part of this system. Really, we are so grateful that we get to do this work with the support of you all.”

The Trustees expressed themselves thrilled with the way the PLA experience has so clearly inspired and energized the library staff -- and in favor of sending the library team to PLA when it convenes again in two years. Lisa said she couldn't imagine a more appropriate way to apply resources from the Foster Fund: “Herb would have just loved this.”

Election of Officers:

After discussion, the trustees agreed upon a slate for the board going forward.

MOTION: to elect Maggie Morrison and Denise Searle as co-chairs, with Nis Kildegaard continuing as secretary –

Moved, David Faber. **Seconded,** Olga Church. **ACTION:** Unanimous.

Director's Annual Evaluation:

The Trustees briefly discussed the evaluation document which had been prepared by Nis, shared with each of them, and edited based on their input.

MOTION: to accept the evaluation as written.

MOVED: Julie Lively, **SECONDED:** David Faber, **ACTION:** Unanimous.

Director's Report: Lisa Sherman

- Lisa shared statistics on foot traffic into the library in May, which continues to recover strongly in this post-pandemic time. She said the library budget is on track as the fiscal year nears its conclusion, and that she will not need to ask town finance officials for any fund transfers to cover the year's unexpected maintenance costs. With three weeks remaining in June, “We're right where we want to be,” Lisa said.
- Lisa said the library HVAC contractor visited recently, got the upstairs air conditioning system functioning, left the building – and the system stopped working half an hour later. She said the repair team will be back at the library on Monday, June 17, and everyone on the staff hopes the Edgartown Library won't be facing a third summer with excessive heat upstairs.

Fundraising/Gifts Received:

MOTION: To accept the monthly donation of \$1,500 from the Friends of the Library.

MOTION: Nis Kildegaard, **SECONDED:** Denise Searle. **ACTION:** Unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Next meeting date: Thursday, July 11, 2024 – in person at the library, beginning at 3:30 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Nis Kildegaard, secretary*