

## Oak Bluffs Library Board of Trustees

Meeting Minutes, March 9, 2017

Attendees: Chairman: Kevin McGrath

Trustees: Scottie Vail, Lloyd Henke, Linda Wilson, Peter Palches, Pam Melrose

Staff: Allyson Malik, Nina Ferry, Nate Luce

General Public: El Edwards, Abe Seaman

Materials: Documents present or on line: Agenda, Meeting Minutes, Departmental Reports, Art Exhibition Policy

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 pm by the Chairman.

Motion: MSP to approve the draft minutes of the February 16th meeting with one correction.

The Chairman recognized visitors El and Abe Seaman.

Programming Policy: This policy is 99% done, copies are available.

Motion: MSP to table discussion and approval of the Programming Policy until the April meeting.

Art Exhibition Policy: Nate presented the existing Art Exhibition Policy. This Policy is dated and does not contain a policy statement. Nate read a new narrative covering policy points and all types of art expression. The topic was open for discussion by the Board.

Points raised during discussion:

1. Need a definition of Art.
2. Possibility of a rotating collection, OBPL doesn't have enough wall space to display all.
3. Donations: Who determines acceptance? Need for guidelines to determine what is appropriate for the library. No adequate storage at OBPL for Art.
4. History of Art in the library: At the time of the new building dedication all donations went through a committee and final say was up to the library director. The committee was later disbanded.
5. Art with a local theme seems to be permanent but there is no policy addressing this.
6. We do have a Gift and Donation Policy; gifts go to the Director first and then the Trustees must approve.

2.

Nate will write a new draft Art Exhibition Policy. He has scheduled two art shows so far this year. The art works will be on display in the Meeting Room.

Departmental Reports: The Director's report to the Town was commended with one correction; the Makers' Ball was held on July 1, 2016. A brief discussion was held concerning the allocation of undesignated funds from the State Aid Account, the Non-Resident Offset Account and the Municipal Equalization Account. Allyson stated that these funds have to cover unplanned purchases so they should not be spent down too far. As Library Director she is requesting a discretionary approval level of approximately \$5,000. Any amount above \$5,000 would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees. The Board did not make a decision on her request at this time.

The Chairman commended Allyson's advocacy for Staff salaries to be more in line with other libraries on the island.

Maker Space Slide Show: Presented by Allyson Malik. The purpose of this presentation is to define the function of a Maker Space project. Maker Space promotes critical thinking and, it is a safe space for failure which promotes problem solving and encourages creativity. A question was raised regarding the term "Maker Space" as emphasizing "space" rather than what this initiative actually provides for the community. Allyson described some of the plans for OBPL that include, having user agreements for any equipment that is available for loan and starting with in-library use only. For example, sewing machines would not be loaned out for at least a year following the start of sewing classes scheduled for May 2017.

The discussion continued with suggestions for our Maker Space. There are ideas on [makethatthing.com](http://makethatthing.com). The Maker Fair is scheduled for May 17.

Future of Libraries Symposium Update: Island librarians met today. They will meet on March 14<sup>th</sup> to decide on a date for the Symposium. The event will cover challenges for libraries in the future.

New Business: Flooring acquisition update: It has been difficult to obtain approval of expenditures in order to proceed with this improvement. Although estimates have been solicited by the library and costs were included in the budget, the Town has recently determined that the amount needed is such that the Town must go out for bids.

Motion: MSP to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary“Scottie” Vail, Trustee