

Croton Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
January 13, 2020

PRESENT

Trustees: Leslie Ellis (24), Sharyse Eisinger (20), Adora Lam (20), Lynn Kauderer (23), Susan Ranis (24), Barry Feinberg (23) Mary McFerran (21), Jane Beller (22), Marianne Merola (22),

Croton Library Association: Kate Fabian, President

Treasurer: Sid Franks

Library Director: Jesse Bourdon

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm.

December 2019 minutes approved.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

- Monthly Statistics

Patron Services statistics for December 2019 were presented. They show a decline in special event attendance but an increase in checkouts. These statistics may be partially due to three extra days in which the library was closed for holidays and two other snow-day closings. More special events are anticipated in the future with the addition of our new Teen Librarian.

- Aaron Cohen Associates

The Director has scheduled a meeting with representatives of Aaron Cohen Associates in the continuing search for the best consulting firm to use when planning for future changes in the design of the library.

- False Alarm on December 10, 2019

On December 10 a false alarm was activated in error by a child. The director is pleased to report that the building was completely evacuated within 90 seconds, and the Fire Department was alerted in time to avoid an unnecessary visit.

- Weeding of Books

The ongoing project of weeding old and unused books from the library shelves continued in December with over 1600, primarily non-fiction, items withdrawn. This process is necessary in order to provide space for new acquisitions. These items are given to Discover Books, an organization which will evaluate and then sell, donate, or recycle them.

- Rotary Seating Area Complete

An outdoor seating area donated by the Rotary Club is now complete and only awaits the addition of planters.

- Letter to the Gazette

A letter to the editor of the Gazette has been sent and published in response to a previous letter regarding the proposed Drag Queen Story Hour, which was never held due to scheduling and staffing problems. It is hoped that the letter will clear up any misunderstandings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Finance Committee:

The Treasurer reports that as of today, the Library is again below budget overall but this is expected to change as vendors often do not submit bills on a timely basis. The budgeting is, however, right on the mark with regards to projected expenses like salary, etc.

A meeting next week has been scheduled with our accountant to discuss a number of outstanding questions regarding budgeting, audit, and tax issues.

The monthly Check Registry for December was voted on and approved.

- Art Committee

There is a new exhibit of weavings in the Ottinger Room entitled “Threads” by Henry Rolnick. All are encouraged to visit.

- Buildings and Grounds

At the January 7th meeting, the group continued its exploration of solar panel options for the library. Benefits and concerns of two proposals were summarized. Consultant Lindsay Audin presented the first proposal from Croton Energy & Ecology Energy at the last committee meeting on November 4, 2019. He forwarded the modified second proposal from Ecology Energy after the library identified zoning challenges with the initial one. The committee proceeded to review a new proposal submitted by Sunrise Solar Solutions that utilizes a different model and decided to invite its representative to a future meeting. The group voiced agreement on prioritizing a thorough investigation of multiple solar options to identify the best choice for the library.

The committee discussed options for determining how the building can best accommodate patrons’ future needs in the most space and energy efficient way. The library director will reach out to other county libraries to learn their approaches to the topic. The committee will maintain a running list of current space, flow, and structure challenges to determine if/when any larger changes are necessary.

Outdoor garbage and recycling receptacles were discussed. It was agreed that adding additional receptacles is unnecessary at this time.

- Croton Reads Committee

The committee awaits final confirmation in order to publicly announce this year's Croton Reads program. The author's presentation will be on March 15 at 1:00 pm. The exact format for this presentation is still under discussion, after which a formal announcement will be made.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION REPORT:

The Association has made the first half of its usual fiscal year donation to the library in the amount of \$15,000. In addition, the annual appeal drive has received over \$14,000 so far. The Board expressed their gratitude to all of the members of the Association for their excellent work in supporting the library.

The Association is conducting a food drive for contributions of non-perishable foods to be donated to the Croton Food Pantry. This program will run throughout the month of February.

The Association's Annual Meeting will be held on April 21 at 7:00pm. There will be an opening for a new Treasurer and members are encouraged to suggest possible candidates.

OTHER BUSINESS:

It may be desirable to switch the date of our next Board Meeting from Monday, February 10, to Tuesday, February 11. The Director will send out an email for feedback.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23

Respectfully submitted by Lynn Kauderer