

Darwin R. Barker Library & Museum Association

Board Meeting Agenda

March 15, 2023

4pm

Agenda:

Review of Minutes emailed:

Correspondence:

Treasurer Report: Kitty Crow

Librarian Report: Graham Tedesco-Blair

Curator Report: Max Walters

Village Representative: Michelle Twichell

Town Representative: Chris Schaeffer

Old Business: Open board position

New Business: Fundraising update, April work day, Friends of the Library Meeting

Calendar:

Adjournment:

Darwin R. Barker Library & Museum Association

Board of Trustees Meeting

Feb. 15, 2023

Present: Jeff Adams, Jon Weekly, Kitty Crow, Mark Twichell, Kathy Petersen, Pat Stokes, Max Walters, Graham Tedesco-Blair

Absent: Linda Prechtel, David Dengler

Town Representative: Chris Schaeffer

Village Representative: absent

Review Minutes Emailed: Jon moves to accept, Mark 2nds, passed

Correspondence: K.D. Klocek donated \$1000 & suggested improvements to memorial page on website. A Thank You note was sent.

Treasurer Report: Keep Amy's report format (budget vs. actual). Budget amendment: health insurance additions for Catherine & August rate increase. Kathy moves to accept, Mark 2nds, passed

Librarian Report: written plus: Graham presents 3D printer information. Jeff asks for more info on possible uses.

Jeff requests info on HVAC, age, etc., for planning purposes. Drinking fountain is broken – replacement cost \$3200 per Gugino's. Graham will explore other options.

Jon moves to accept, Mark 2nds, passed

Curator Report: written plus: Kitty asks if Max & Graham track how patrons & visitors learn of events? Mark moves to accept report, Pat 2nds, passed

Town Representative: Chris acknowledges receipt of Jeff's letter of interest concerning possible acquisition of town building. Chris reports no immediate plan for town vacating said premises yet

Old Business: Plan for PP committee – health insurance review: Kitty suggests several changes to policy & Jeff will modify. Re: empty board position – Dave Tiffany will help look for prospective members, & may

consider stepping up as a temporary member. He also may help with fund-raising education for us.

A written estimate for duct cleaning is pending.

Linda has created a spreadsheet clarifying board members' terms & attendance.

New Business: Jeff proposes moving meeting to later: tabled. We did not receive any village grant money. Jeff proposes an April work day, & will ask for some village man-hours to assist. Pat: Rebecca Cuthbert, local author, would like to do an April 15th book signing: board in favor.

Calendar: next meeting March 15, 4pm, Steele Room

Adjournment: Mark moves, Jon 2nds, passed

Respectfully submitted: Kathy Petersen, sec'y

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Board Meeting

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Librarian's Report

NCCF Grant Accepted – Oral History program in collaboration with the Museum. Very exciting that they accepted on the strength of our letter of intent alone!

Art Display – Eric Tilton is our artist for this month. His work is made entirely from natural materials, using mud, berries, wood, and other things in order to do his work. A reception will be held on the 25th

Kids Takeover the Library – 23 attendees, who ate pizza, played video games, watched anime, did crafts, and had an overall wonderful time. Especial thanks to Carey for putting everything together, Elizabeth and Laurie for working it, and the Friends for funding the program!

Seed Starting Program – on the 11th, Elizabeth ran a program all about how to use a one gallon plastic jug to start native wildflower seeds.

Meet a Hedgehog – Very cute program held on 2/11, where participants could come meet a real hedgehog! 18 kids, 20 adults.

Overdrive – still solidly number three in the system, after Olean and Jamestown. Old Overdrive app is being sunsetted starting on May 1st, so all patrons will have to use their Libby app going forward.

Computer Classes – our ever-popular computer classes this month were all about how to navigate the library catalog and library websites, and how to use the Libby app to download books from Overdrive. Big thanks to our Libby for putting these together!

Rebecca Cuthbert – Local poet and author will present her new collection, *In Memory of Exoskeletons: a collection of dark & speculative poetry*, on April 15th

Debra Runge Meder – Local author will present a reading and book signing for her latest, *The Front Porch Promise*, on April 1st

Stats:

Children Programs:

Storytime: 7 sessions, 58 total participants

Lego Master Builders: 1 session, 5 total participants

Hedgehog Visit: 18 kids, 20 adults

Kids Take Over the Library: 23 participants

Computer Programs

Individual Training: 9 participants

Computer classes: 2 sessions, 10 total participants

Adult Programs

Creating writing workshop 2/7: 2 participants

Seed Starting Workshop 2/11: 8 participants

Meditations in Paint: 2 sessions, 10 total attendees

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Curator's Report

Acquisition

- In researching the signature of James G. Blaine, whose signature can be found on the recently acquired register of the Park Hotel in 1892, we contacted the Main State Historian—to whom we were referred by the Blaine House, the Maine Governor's House—who confirmed that the signature was not that of the former Secretary of States, but that it could be that of his son, James G. Blaine, Jr.
- WCA Home's archives have been offered to the Barker as of early March 2023. Max will tour the WCA house on March 15 (the morning before the Board of Trustees meet), by which time more details will be available.
- Vince Martonis, collector and Hannover Historian, has announced his intention to sell his collection of Pettit medicine bottles this year. A final price will become available in April, but the expected amount is roughly \$4,000. Fundraising options for the acquisition of this collection of local history materials is being considered.

Archives

- Three bankers boxes of microfilmed newspapers have been prepared for digitization on Fultonhistory.com, which already has some of the Fredonia Censor and Fredonia Advertiser, but not the Grape Belt, Fredonia Express, Sherman Gazette, and newspapers from elsewhere in Pomfret and northern Chautauqua.

Outreach

- Dr. VanDette and Dr. Simon of the SUNY English department toured the Barker with their guest lecturer, Matt Seybold of Professor at Elmira College of Literature & Mark Twain Studies and Resident Scholar at the Center For Mark Twain Studies.

- Jessica Loring, a Cushing scholar and relative of Alonzo's, has expressed interest in speaking at the Barker upon the completion of her upcoming book about Alonzo's Medal of Honor.
- Rotary Club meeting and tour held at the Barker on March 2nd. Twelve members toured Mark Twain in Fredonia. D.A.R. has accepted an invitation for a similar arrangement for April 14.
- Archivist Catherine will act as an advisor for the Leon Historical Society's grant application for the restoration of a church steeple in that town.
- Number of research requests in the past month: 10.