1. Call to order: 6:32 pm

Franklin Public Library Minutes

January 14, 2021

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2. Roll call: Present: Susan Stevens, Susan Pepper, Rick David, Janice Cherkasky, Kim Greidanus, Teresa Natzke, Robin Rosen. All attendees stated that they were participating remotely from locations in the Village of Franklin, MI other than Ms. Natzke, who was attending from Clawson, MI

3. Approve agenda: Janice made the motion to adopt the agenda with the provision that we move Agenda Item #6 Old Business to be discussed before Item #5. ; Rick seconded it. A roll call was taken and all approved.

4. Approve minutes: Rick made a motion; Susan Pepper seconded it.

Roll call was taken and all approved.

5. Old business:

Susan Pepper updated the board on the Franklin Resident Library survey.

She found a person to create and oversee the survey, Ann Benson, a customer insights professional. She will help us understand our “customer base”. Susan will send us her written plan which contains a good deal of detail. It reflects all we have spoken about. It appears that the whole process will take approximately 60 days to implement and provide a final report. Her estimated budget is within our expectations. In order to support this initiative, we will need to purchase a license to Survey Monkey and work with the Library Friends organization on mailing related matters.

Susan Pepper outlined the 3 major tasks we, as a board, will need to do. 1) prepare the postcard communication to be sent out announcing the survey 2) communicate final results and 3) be prepared to offer written copies of the survey to those who request it.

Susan Pepper will use her experience to insure that people pay attention to the postcard and not throw it out. We will also consider sending follow up communications reminding our villagers to respond to the survey request. Additionally, postcard inserts in all checked out materials will be used to encourage survey participation.

Susan Pepper suggested that she send out the draft questionnaire to all board members so that everyone can give feedback before it is sent out.

6. New business:

Anonymous letter from Village Resident

Rick David presented a letter (copy attached to these minutes) that was sent anonymously by a Franklin resident, questioning the presence of a Menorah on governmental property.. He had subsequently spoken to the Village attorney about this issue, as well as the Village administrator.

Teresa responded that the property where the library stands is owned by the   
Village and they are responsible for dealing with this. The FCA may own the menorah as they store it each year, but this is still unclear and being looked into. The initial concern at this time is to determine which entity, ie. Village of Franklin or Franklin Village Library, controls access to the property adjacent to our building and whether the placement of any such religious symbol is in compliance with appropriate governmental guidelines. Rick will be following up with the Village administration and report back.

The issue will be tabled until we get more information.

b. Rick presented information on the Village’s ‘Diversity and Inclusion’ (D&I) committee which is being formed by the Franklin Village Council and it is looking for volunteers to participate. This committee is planning a new resident welcoming process to increase a sense of community welcome, inclusion and introduce new residents to the various aspects of the Village including -

- Franklin Village Council and Government:

- Franklin Police Department

- Franklin Fire Department

- Franklin Community Association

- Main Street Franklin and downtown businesses, and

most importantly to this group, the Franklin Library

Teresa was not aware of this initiative . Rick suggested we put together the information that we would like to include and that Library staff establish a liaison with the D&I committee for the sharing of information on this initiative

Trustee Susan Pepper has left the meeting at 7:15 due to a prior commitment

and therefore did not vote.

7. Treasurer’s Report :

Rick asked if there were any questions on the report. There was a large charge for the furnace, but this was expected. The budget was presented and Rick will review it with Teresa mid-year. Rick stated that if we go over the budget, we will have to remedy this.

Rick made a motion to approve the report. Janice seconded it. A roll call was taken and all approved it,

8. Librarian’s report: Teresa recommends that we continue to do curbside pick up, which is what all the neighboring libraries are also doing, except W. Bloomfield. Teresa would like all the staff to be vaccinated before allowing the library to open and Susan Stevens suggested that she does not think we will be able to open before at least March.

Florence continues to put out a cart with all the new materials and she is starting to see return visitors for this. Teresa will begin to also do this on Fridays.

Janice suggested that a chalkboard sign be put out that lets people know about the cart, as it is not visible from the front of the library and many may not know about it. Teresa will look into this and what the Village restrictions are on signage.

Two of our online services, Overdrive and RB Digital, are merging and these, along with Hoopla are being used most extensively by patrons. The music app, Freegal, does not have significant participation from our library users and Teresa will likely look into removing it.

9. Kim reported that there is nothing new with Maintenance.

10. No public comments.

Adjournment at 7:28.

Next meeting will be Feb. 11.

Respectfully submitted by Robin Rosen, secretary

\*\*Letter re: the Menorah

