



## OBSERVER REPORT

ABBOT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Monday June 7th, 2021 LWVM Observer: Brigitte Lagoutte

Members in attendance: Nancy Arata, Ann Mc Greevy, Gary Amberik, David Ross, Laurie Flowers, EuRim Chun, Phyllis Smith, Wayne Stemmer, Meryl Thompson, Patti Rogers.

Meeting on zoom and open to the public.

1. Minutes of the May 10th, 2021 meeting were approved.

2. Abbot Library Fund, Inc.

a. Approval of May 10, 2021 Minutes

b. Financial report was presented by Laurie Flowers

c. Bylaws discussions:

The Trustees voted in support of a new name for the Abbot Public Library Fund Inc. It will now be called the Abbot Public Library Foundation and will have a separate Board of Directors from the Trustees of the Library. There will be a meeting of the Directors of the APL Foundation on June 29th, 2021.

The Foundation voted in favor of a donation of one million dollars of Foundation assets to go to the town for the library renovations project, provided that the Town override passes on June 22, 2021.

A vote was made in favor of the revised by-laws: the Foundation will be composed of 15 members (8 will be appointed by the Trustees including one current voting Trustee, and 7 appointed by the Foundation). The Library Director will be an ex-officio director of the Foundation.

At this point, five persons have been appointed by the Trustees: Wayne Stemmer, Laurie Flowers, Meryl Thompson, Phyllis Smith and EuRim Chun, as the voting Library Trustees who will join the Foundation Board. Their terms are still to be determined.

Director: Phyllis Smith (for 2 years)

A vote was made in favor of the APL Foundation buying two new benches for the Secret Garden of the library. One will be dedicated to Phyllis B. Smith, former member of the Board of Trustees for her 12 years of service to the Library and the other to Trustee EuRim Chun's parents. The Chun bench has been paid for and funds will be drawn down from their account at the Foundation for this purpose.

The separation of the Board of Trustees of the Abbot Public Library and the Board of the APL Foundation is now official.

### 3. Director's Report:

The library is open every day except Wednesday when it is closed for curbside service. This policy will be reviewed within the next two months and more hours will be added to the library operations, most likely evening hours. A full schedule will be expected by Labor Day weekend.

Statistics indicate that curbside demand is going down significantly with the reopening of the building.

There is now no mandatory mask wearing inside the library. There is social distancing and sanitizing of hands where appropriate.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

There will be a scholarship lunch event in July in the Secret Garden of the library. The scholarships are awarded to high school students who are college bound and provided by the Killam Trust, a private foundation.

### 5. Advocacy Committee Update:

We are looking for victory on June 22nd!

In order to encourage as many people to vote as possible, many signs in support of the library renovations have been put up throughout the town and public places, and post cards have been sent to the donors.

6. Friends update: There will be a book sale next Saturday at the library from 10am to 12.

7. Next Board meeting will be on July 12 at 6:30 pm.

At that time current Trustee David Ross will have been elected for a 3-year additional term and John Williams will join the Board as the new Trustee running unopposed.

The Board will also be welcoming the new library director, Kimberly Grad, at the July meeting. She will begin her work on July 6, 2021.

There were words of praise for Patti Rogers the retiring library Director, who is leaving at the end of June, and for Phyllis Smith, former Trustees and now Director of the Foundation, in recognition of their long and dedicated service to the library.