



OBSERVER REPORT

ABBOT LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES July 14th, 2021 - 6:30pm
LWV Observer: Brigitte Lagoutte

Members in attendance: Nancy Arata, Gary Amberik, David Ross, EuRim Chun, John Williams,
Library Director: Kimberly Grad
The meeting took place in the Marblehead Room of the library.

1. The Minutes of the June 7th meeting were approved

2. Elections of Officers for the year 2022: the following persons for the Board of Trustees were elected:

Chair: Nancy Perkins Arata Vice Chair: EuRim Chun Secretary: Gary Amberik

3. Abbot Public Library Foundation:

- Minutes of June 7th meeting were approved
- Trustees will recommend potential new directors for the Foundation.
- EuRim Chun is the liaison between the Board of Trustees and the Foundation.

4. Director's Observations:

- The new library Director, Kimberly Grad, said that hiring is needed to replace 4 library positions which have become vacant.
- There are problems in the building: the AC stopped working for a while, a plumber is coming next week to fix the toilets, and the elevator broke down recently but was temporarily repaired.
- Library service hours are being revised and more hours will be added by September.
- The library Director is gathering information in order to start to organize the transitional library plan before the library renovations start by September of next year.
- Under discussion is the possibility of one or two late nights when the library would remain open until 9pm as well as some Sunday hours.

5. Chairman Report:

The Chair has 5 priorities she would like the Board to focus on for the coming year:

- Provide support for the library Director as appropriate
- Support the full reopening of the library
- Help plan and facilitate the transition with site selection and funding
- Work with the Building Renovation Committee in finalizing construction documents over the next year
- Provide support for the Foundation

There will be a meeting of 3 of the Trustees and the Director with Jason Silva, Town Manager, on July 20th to discuss how the renovation campaign will be organized, and what we need to do now to secure a "transitional" library space for at least 1 year.

About 10,000 square feet of temporary space will be needed during the transition in order to continue the most important of the library programs and services.

The following rooms are available for rental at the Library, mostly starting in September:

- The Marblehead room on the second floor
- the meeting/conference room
- the gallery (next to the kitchen)
- the secret garden

There will be a rental charge for private events while public events will mostly be free of charge.

6. Chairman Building Renovation Committee:

An OPM (Owner's Program Manager) is needed to organize the renovation along with the architect.

The BRC will hire that person, in conjunction with the Town Manager, in early Fall

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm. The next meeting will be on August 2, 2021.