



## Brunswick Community Library

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES

June 20, 2023 - 6:00 pm

**Attendees:** Alix Duggan, Jennifer Gordon, Sara Hopkins, Therese Goyette, Fred Wobrock,

**Excused:** Matt Perfetti, Kevin Mainello, Jennifer Shatz, Andrea Wedler, Grace Kosinski, Jen Mainello

Call to order 6:05 PM. Alix Duggan announced that we do not have enough members in attendance to reach a quorum, therefore we will hold a non-voting meeting instead. All motions will be held until July.

#### **Approval of May 2023 minutes**

The May 2023 minutes cannot be approved without a quorum. Jennifer Gordon will contact Kevin Mainello to confirm outstanding questions about the May 2023 minutes. Approval of May 2023 minutes will be added to the July agenda.

#### **Treasurer's Report**

There is no official Treasurer's report this month. Andrea Wedler is excused from this meeting, but sent the numbers via email. Expenses were typical and savings fine. Approval of the May report will be added to the July agenda.

#### **Director's Report**

The full report was distributed via email. Upcoming events include: Medieval Day (July 8); Kids Clothing Swap (July 10 and 11); Small Garden Design (July 18); Civil War Day (July 22). Summer reading begins June 26 and will follow the same format as last year (community mosaic); the theme is "All Together Now." Summer reading themes are chosen years in advance by the Collaborative Summer Library Program (<https://www.csllpreads.org/>). Alix Duggan thanked Sara Hopkins for putting together these programs.

#### **Committee Reports**

*Buildings & Grounds:* Kevin Mainello excused.

**Memorial Bench and Honor Garden engraved paver project status:** Alix Duggan reported that Kevin has not yet received a quote from John Gavin. If we cannot install it yet, we might still be able to place bricks around the garden.

**2024 construction grant for building re-siding:** Alix Duggan reported that Kevin will obtain siding samples.

*Annual Appeal/Fundraising:* Jen Mainello and Grace Kosinski excused.

**Summer mailing:** Summer mailing should be for the Honor Garden. Alix Duggan is working on the language for summer mailing.

**Garden Day final report:** Sara Hopkins stated that we made around \$2000, which was a good outcome considering poor weather and low attendance at the event. The BBQ fundraiser made about \$500. The overall figure is down from last year's event, which raised about \$3000, including the BBQ. Therese Goyette asked what we could do next year to improve; Sara noted that she needs more responses about the number of board members/volunteers that can commit to attend/work the event. Alix Duggan inquired whether separating the BBQ to a different day was better or worse. Discussion centered around whether selling tickets was successful, whether the event earns enough for the library, and whether the market for BBQ in the area is already saturated. Sara Hopkins noted that we might focus on the Elks fundraiser in the future.

Many board members would like to see more money coming directly to the library from fundraisers. An "art night" was proposed as a new potential fundraiser. Jennifer Gordon suggested reaching out to the community via the Troy Kids google group to connect with local artists. Sara Hopkins suggested that we make the Celtic Christmas Night with Jeff Snow (December 1) into a library fundraiser. We could have door prizes or raffles; each board member would be asked to source something for the door prizes or raffle (e.g., jam, tea, candles, cookies, etc.). Admission would be \$10 for adults; possibly \$5 for youth. Admission would give you one ticket toward a door prize, and additional door prize tickets could be purchased. The fundraising committee can discuss and provide additional details.

**Fall Fest:** September 24th confirmed, 12 - 4 pm. There is no August meeting, but the September board meeting is a few days before the event.

Human Resources: Jennifer Shatz excused. No report.

Nominating:

**New Candidates Needed for 2023 and 2024:** One person is needed now. Some new candidates proposed; resumes are in the hands of the nominating committee and they will conduct interviews.

Technology: No report.

**Old Business:**

**2023/24 construction grant for building re-siding:** Discussion centered on whether we go for it or not; there is only a 50% match this year. Keven will get estimates to see if it's worth it to spend the money now or if the siding will hold up until next year (and we can determine if the match rate is better).

**2023 Garden Club schedule:** The schedule is online, but is not filling up. Sara will send out an email noting the recent library programming award in an attempt to recruit people for the Garden Club.

**UHLS Library Expedition:** Reminder that the UHLS expedition is ongoing through July 31st.

**UHLS Annual Awards Celebration on June 14th (recap):** BCL won the 2022 Adult Program of the Year award for the community garden and compost program. The library was up against well-funded libraries. Alix Duggan and Sara Hopkins attended and presented a slideshow and made a speech.

**New Business:**

**Saturday morning programs for kids:** Fred Wobrock proposed that we should consider Saturday morning programs for kids (to serve families who cannot attend weekday storytimes). Sara Hopkins has booked a dance program for kids, and has a tinkergarten program in the works. Sara noted that historically Saturday programs have not been well attended due to patrons traveling or participating in sports - but she is open to trying them again. Jennifer Gordon suggested sharing these events via homeschooling Facebook groups to draw visitors from outside of Brunswick. Many homeschooling families school year-round.

**Meeting room policy:** There is a recommendation from UHLS to review and/or revise meeting room policies. Alix Duggan has spoken to Jennifer Shatz, who will look at the BCL policy, consider the advice from UHLS, and propose any needed revisions. This is in response to a national movement called 'BRAVE Books' which has organized plans to reserve library meeting rooms for sponsored 'public storytimes' that speak against the library's mission and principles of intellectual freedom. Our current policy indicates no bookings for commercial or political purposes.

**Next Town Council meeting:** July 13, 2023 at 7:00 pm - Jennifer Gordon attending

**Next Board of Trustees meeting:** July 18, 2023 at 6:00 pm  
Alix Duggan called the meeting to a close at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Gordon