

TML Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 30, 2024

6:30 p.m.

APPROVED

Present: Tim Blackstone, Reed Dyer, Elizabeth Elliott, Griff Gilbert, Tim Hebda, Patience Maloney, Rachel Davis (Director, Thomas Memorial Library, Committee Secretary)

Absent: Sara Hoffman

Welcome and Call the Meeting to Order: Tim called to order at 6:30 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes from the April 24 meeting: Liz felt the accounting of the first public comment should more accurately reflect the speaker's level of distress at the loss of Andy Ryer; the addition of the word "passionately" was suggested to emphasize this point in the minutes. Tim Hebda made a motion to accept the minutes with the proposed amendment; seconded by Liz; unanimously approved.
2. Public Comment: none.
3. Committee assignments: The discussion of this agenda item and the proposed calendar were combined as these two items are dependent upon one another.
 - a. The date and time of the Community Conversation were discussed, as the draft calendar listed the event as taking place on a Thursday evening.
 - i. The possibility of having the event on a Saturday afternoon toward the end of the day was discussed; ideas for getting people to attend included having a food truck available to attract participants.
 - ii. Another idea would be to send out a simple survey asking what days and times people would be more inclined to attend
 - b. After reviewing the commitments outlined in the draft meeting calendar, the following Committee assignments were proposed:
 - i. Tim Blackstone, Reed, Liz, and Patience will serve on the Strategic Planning Working Group
 - ii. Tim Hebda will serve on the TML Foundation Board
 - iii. Griff and Sara will meet with the full TML Committee for quarterly updates
 - iv. These committee assignments will be finalized at the June meeting
4. Meeting Schedule (see above)
5. Director's Update:
 - a. Rachel shared that three of the four open positions have been filled; the library is still seeking to fill the Family Engagement Manager position.
 - b. Attendance at programs has continued to be strong. Sasha Kohan is doing an excellent job at planning adult programming in her new role as Community Engagement Librarian.
6. Plans for Community Conversation in September: What do we want to know? Who do we want to reach?
 - a. Teens and tweens were identified as an audience to involve in the discussion—but not necessarily at the Community Conversation; perhaps there could be

TML Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 30, 2024

6:30 p.m.

APPROVED

conversation board in the tween space and the teen area of the library to solicit feedback from these groups

- b. There was discussion of gathering feedback from different audiences in other ways as well, such as at the end of regular programs
 - c. Having boards on the walls in the meeting rooms was proposed as another idea, inviting program or meeting participants to add sticky notes to give feedback on particular questions
 - i. Rachel mentioned the Stop-Start-Continue methodology of soliciting feedback, and the Committee discussed this as a simple way to encourage conversation and ideas; this would also provide a consistent message for soliciting feedback in multiple venues
 - d. Reed distilled our discussion of what we want to know into three “buckets:”
 - i. What are the strengths and weaknesses of the library? What does the library do for the community?
 - ii. What are the barriers that get in the way?
 - iii. What would you hope the library might be five years from now?
 - 1. Tim Hebda reference an article Rachel shared some time ago about the role of the public library and how it has changed; Rachel said she would try to locate the article and resend it to everyone for reference.
 - e. Other audiences were identified:
 - i. Digital-only patrons
 - ii. Program attendees
 - iii. Parents of young children
 - iv. New parents
 - v. People who don’t use the library—what needs are not being fulfilled?
 - 1. Rachel mentioned the large number of people who attended the Town’s Climate Action Plan community conversation last fall, and the large number of the attendees who had never been in the library. Someone suggested that we schedule another climate action conversation shortly before our Community Conversation so we can encourage attendees at that event to come to ours.
7. New Business: Rachel mentioned the DEI Committee’s plan to partner with the library on a series of facilitated book discussion leading up the election using Monica Guzmán’s book *I Never Thought of It That Way*, about having conversations with people with whom you disagree; the TML Foundation is very supportive of the idea of purchasing books to give away to participants with a book plate urging them to pass the book along to someone else.
8. Public Comment (15 minutes): none
9. Next Meeting: June 20 at 6:30 p.m.; Rachel to invite Will Plumley to attend

TML Committee Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 30, 2024

6:30 p.m.

APPROVED

10. Adjournment: Liz made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Patience; unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Davis, 6/13/24