

OBERLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 9, 2021 Regular

President Bruce Ente called to order the meeting at 5:00 p.m. Roll call: Megan Newson, Marcia Peterson, Bethany Baker, Anita Lock, Patrick Prosser, and Bruce Ente were present. Meredith Gadsby was absent. Also present were Darren McDonough, Director; Kristin Cioffi, Fiscal Officer; and Stephanie Jones, Director of The Bridge. Jan Thornton was present from the public.

Peterson moved, seconded by Baker, to accept Resolution # R-21-9-1, approving the minutes of the August 12, 2021, Special Bridge Strategic Planning Meeting. All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR THE BRIDGE

Ente commented that Darren McDonough and Stephanie Jones would be answering the following questions posed to them at the last meeting:

- What joint programming, collaborations or partnerships has The Bridge undertaken in the past few years with other local organizations, agencies or entities? (Brief description, target audience, how successful, etc.) What opportunities do you foresee, similar to or different from the past, for partnering with local organizations in the future to serve patrons of The Bridge?
- What programs are being offered or services are being delivered by public library “technology centers” (locally, regionally or nationally) that could be successfully adopted or adapted by The Bridge? If any innovative programs or “cutting edge” services exist at larger and/or wealthier libraries, could they be “scaled” to work at The Bridge and the OPL?

Ente explained that although The Bridge is doing fine, he would like to look at ways to revitalize it.

Stephanie Jones, Director of the Bridge, presented a Power Point addressing the questions posed by Ente (copy attached). Past collaborations covered in the presentation included FAVA, Goodwill of Lorain County, OAAGHG, Oberlin City Schools, US Census Bureau, Oberlin Heritage Center, Oberlin Community Services, the Oberlin City Park and Recreation Department, and Oberlin Cable Co-op. Ideas for future collaborations presented included the NAACP, the Community Foundation of Lorain County, Kendal of Oberlin, Lorain County Jobs & Family Services, the National Council of Negro Women, and the Urban

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League of Lorain County. Jones answered questions regarding the collaborations. Jones explained that collaborations are planned based on the needs of the participating organizations. Needs mentioned included access to technology equipment, private space for meetings, and skills instruction. Most of the collaborations take place at The Bridge, but approximately one per month take place off-site. Collaborations off-site primarily do not need to use The Bridge's equipment.

Jones played a video from Nick Tanzi's presentation at the Computers in Libraries Connect 2021 addressing the "Circle of Tech" in libraries. Jones gave an overview of the technologies offered at local libraries, similar-sized ALA Star libraries, and large libraries. Most of the technologies offered at local and similar sized libraries were like those offered at The Bridge. McDonough noted that many libraries charge patrons money for the services they provide and local businesses in town already provide those services for a fee. Ente commented that the differences in the technologies offered at larger libraries were primarily related to hardware. Jones agreed and explained that some of the larger libraries have partnerships with organizations that provide funding in return for sharing the use of the hardware. Prosser asked if other libraries have a separate building for their technology center. Jones replied in the negative. McDonough explained that the initial design of The Bridge was in a separate building since the library did not have space for an in-house computer lab. There was some discussion regarding the need for additional space and possibly looking at ways to redesign the current space at the library and The Bridge. Ente commented that the primary monetary investment for The Bridge is in staffing, and the library should look at providing services that give the best return on investment.

Ente left the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Vice-President Baker took over chairing the meeting.

Baker asked if the Backspace was open now. Jones replied that there is not staffing to open the Backspace and students are not back at Oberlin College to provide tutoring. Newson asked what The Bridge does for marketing. Jones replied that The Bridge markets itself in various ways including brochures, Cable Co-op, social media, flyers, word of mouth, and via the library's website and social media. Newson commented that she thinks it is important to survey the community and to look at becoming mobile.

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Jones left the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

McDonough reported that Gadsby attended the Personnel Committee meeting and reviewed the personnel changes included in the Board packet. McDonough circulated the corresponding applications and resignation letters. Peterson moved, seconded by Lock, to accept Resolution # R-21-9-2, approving the following personnel changes:

- The hiring of part-time Adult Public Services Team Member Mark Harssema (moved from Circulation Clerk), effective 5-17-2021.
- The resignation of full-time Circulation Clerk Mina Mayo, effective 6-11-2021.
- The resignation of part-time Shelver Mike Frye, effective 7-3-2021.
- The hiring of part-time Shelver Erin Jones, effective 7-6-2021.
- The hiring of full-time Circulation Clerk Mark Harssema (moved from Adult Public Services Team Member), effective 7-11-2021.
- The hiring of part-time Adult Public Services Team Member Shivani Singh, effective 7-26-2021.
- The resignation of part-time Adult Public Services Team Member Olivia Moe, effective 8-1-2021.
- The resignation of part-time Adult Public Services Team Member Shivani Singh, effective 8-4-2021.
- The resignation of part-time Technical Services Clerk Nancy Yood, effective 9-19-2021.

All present voted in favor.

MOTION PASSED

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jan Thornton from the Friends of OPL commented that the library should look at what the city of Oberlin is planning on doing with Prospect School. She noted that the library might be able to use space in the building for after-school programming at little cost.

NEXT MEETING & COMMITTEE SCHEDULE

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Baker noted that she would be unable to attend the scheduled BF&A meeting. McDonough replied on the possibility of rescheduling the meeting. The next regular Board meeting will be Thursday, October 14 at 5:00 p.m.

Lock moved, seconded by Newson, to adjourn. All present voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:18 p.m.

President

Attest