

Long-Range Planning Committee Meeting for Red Feather Lakes Community Library

March 8, 2022

9 AM via Zoom

Present: Creed Kidd (Library Director), Darlene Kilpatrick (Programming Librarian), Sumukh Torgalkar, Spook Tipton, Bill Moxon, Julie Sauter

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 AM.

No corrections to the minutes of the February 8, 2022 Long-Range Planning Committee meeting. Bill moved to accept the meeting minutes. Spook seconded.

Sumukh provided a draft of a vision statement, mission statement, and diversity, inclusion, and equity statement that he composed to begin a discussion among the committee. Bill was curious if any of the statements could be more exciting or marketing-driven or if there were better ways to express the diversity of the community. Spook felt the general tone of the statements was good but that perhaps one of the statements could better express a promotion or similarly marketing-driven messaging for the library. Creed found the statements sufficient. Darlene suggested adding more about the library fulfilling needs for the community within the mission statement. Given the committee had a variety of thoughts, they agreed that any vote table until next month and Sumukh requested that the rest of the committee can bring their ideas in their own wording for updating of the statements and discussion at next month's meeting. Sumukh also suggested marketing and promotional ideas separate of the statements be brought to the discussion. Additionally, Creed will reach out to the Friends of the Library for their perspective on the statements and if there is anything further they could suggest to appeal to the community.

The committee then discussed the issue of space. Darlene will contact individuals in connection with ARAPA and requesting a meeting with the commissioners. Sumukh will assist Darlene by looking into other grant possibilities for the library and space. Before the committee considers the possibility of spending money on a space evaluation, Bill suggested he will reach out to a contact he has a long-term relationship with on whether that individual would be willing to evaluate the space. The library must also consider the possibilities with the POA and the idea of swapping buildings. Creed will reach out to the POA in collaboration with Darlene and Sumukh on setting up a meeting with Karen at the POA to discuss the possibilities. By assigning these various roles, the committee is taking the first step in addressing the number of options the library has to address space issues.

As a patron of the library and President, Sumukh wanted to bring up the issue of library hours. Currently, the library operates 7 days a week from 9 am to 6 pm. Sumukh wanted to understand if this many hours was a strain on staff and if 63 hours are needed for the patrons that the library serves. Creed stated it can be a stress on staff and that he steps in if no one is available to monitor the front desk. Due to library roles changing for Darlene and Jeanette's impending departure, the Board should consider in collaboration with Creed on how to go forward with librarian positions, roles, and hiring. There are many volunteers but the library cannot be purely reliant on volunteers to fulfill the stresses of 63 hours of open operations. This committee as well as the board should look at the data involved in current hours and patron needs as well as polling constituents to determine if an update to library hours is necessary both out of respect for the staff as well as fulfilling the community needs.

Meeting adjourned at 10:11 AM.

The next meeting will be April 12, 2022 at the POA.

Recorded by Sumukh Torgalkar