

Bedford Village Free Library
Board Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2025

Attendance: Scott Harrison, Alison Todd, Artika Loganathan (remotely), Ann Cloonan, Caroline DeFilippo, Colleen Gelfand, Ted Eigel

Meeting began: 7:15 PM

Minutes: approved from prior meeting

Consultant strategic plan update

- Survey results
 - There was more commonality between Katonah and BFL than not
 - Library use focused on material check out and attending programs as top two responses
 - Divergent results were with digital materials being number 3 use of BFL
 - Goals of services community would like include: more relevant programs, more and better parking, drinks/food friendly areas (same in both libraries)
 - Majority of community members interested in reading and lecture programs
 - Barriers to library use parking and library hours
- Future growth opportunities: inter generational opportunities, expand support for technology and media, celebrate and preserve Bedford's uniqueness, promote health and sustainable lifestyles, support career development, strengthen collaborations and partnerships to enhance goals, increase library outreach within Bedford ecosystem
- Consultants did a full day of observations at BFL including community meetings in both Katonah and Bedford
- Next workshop next week to work on plan development
- Strategic plan deliverable aim for beginning of May
- Request to have metrics that we can measure in subsequent years to ensure we are still on track with community goals/needs
- Strategic plan should be presented to the community in May/June timeline (what is the forum) and perhaps again in the fall

414 Funding update

- Creating a financial forecast for 5 years
- Plan to aim for perhaps 85% funding in first year
- Lloyd Truffleman available to help with promotion of funding and thematic support
- Still need for specific campaign strategies

- • In off years 39% of Bedford voters vote, need approximately 2089 yes votes to win
- Meeting with lawyer next week to discuss wording on the ballot
- System for housing capital still needs to be determined

Director's update

- Need to adopt an ICE policy and recommendation to have a policy on hand
 - Policy reviewed and approved
 - Suggestion to have a resource person identified if legal counsel is needed
- Annual report for state reviewed and approved
 - Question raised about difference in circulation volume from last year to this year
- Annual appeal on track with last year's number (441 donors for this campaign)
- High school writing contest underway deadline extended to 2/28
- Cooking with Christa was well received
- Plan to do cooking mini camp for summer 2025
- Winter music class started today and both are full
- Bedford babies has 14 babies
- Infant feeding support group has good uptake
- Valentine's were delivered to Optum, Mt Sinai and Montefiore
- Photography class starting on Monday
- Maureen's retirement party was a big success with public party attended by 50 people
- We now have pages every day of the week

Financial Updates:

- Report deferred to next meeting

Next meeting

March 19th at 7pm

Meeting Adjourned 8:10PM