

Cornwall Public Library Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
February 11, 2021, 7PM
Transcription

Stephanie Wolf: Call the trustee meeting of the Cornwall Public Library Trustee Meeting to order. We are missing Melissa and Roberta, they are excused. Alright, so, that's all we're missing, right? Because we have Matt and Meghann, yes. So we also have Catherine and Emily and Meaghan Doyle here. And Charlotte I have you twice.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yeah, you have me twice because I have two computers because I was going to, I'm going to get out of the other computer.

Stephanie Wolf: That's alright.

Charlotte Dunaief: I was going to try to screenshare with the second computer but it's not going to work because, yeah.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so-

Meaghan Doyle: Charlotte, I'm there if you want, I can do the screen share because I have the, unless you made any changes, I have it.

Charlotte Dunaief: I didn't make any changes, but I don't think we're going to do that just yet.

Meaghan Doyle: Okay, if you change your mind just say so, I'm here.

Charlotte Dunaief: Sure.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so Meaghan have you started the recording? Okay. So I'm going to, does anybody have, talk about the minutes from January 14th.

Carol Stein: I did have one question on them.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay.

Carol Stein: In the Communications and Donations section we said that, the first line says that "The Storm King Art Center emailed Brenda asking the library to write a letter of support..." but the minutes doesn't say how we concluded that and I think we agreed not to do that, right?

Charlotte Dunaief: Right, we agreed, the time frame had passed.

Carol Stein: Oh, so we should probably note that-

Charlotte Dunaief: Okay.

Carol Stein: Because it looks like in this, if I were reading these minutes a year from now I wouldn't know what the out-

Charlotte Dunaief: So Catherine can you add that into the minutes, the timeframe for the letter had passed?

Carol Stein: Either that or we just take it out because it's a nonevent, so one or the other.

Charlotte Dunaief: We can just take it out then.

Meghann Chyla: Yeah I would say just take it out, what's the purpose of having it there then.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right.

Carol Stein: Otherwise I think we were fine. We had the budget transfers, those were all good. So I just was, and I'm sorry I didn't see it quick enough, I was just rereading it again and I'm like, "Oh."

Stephanie Wolf: Great, does anybody else have anything? So I'll need a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Carol Stein: So moved.

Stephanie Wolf: Carol makes a motion. Second? Matt R. All in favor?

Meghann Chyla: Aye.

Stephanie Wolf: So the minutes have been approved as amended. So now we are going to talk about Warrant #7.

Carol Stein: So I think there are a couple of large ticket items here, again. We really didn't meet as a Finance Committee, per se, but we, there was one capital, right Emily, for Graybar Electric, that was \$29,700, and there was a large payment for the first quarter fee for RCLS for the technology and whatever that we have to pay, so that was about 14. So those two put us up pretty high this period again, and otherwise it was a lot of small numbers. Except for payroll of course, but. A lot of little subscriptions that we renewed, and etcetera etcetera. So I don't know if anyone had any questions but Emily I don't think we fielded any, right? Nobody ever, sometimes people do but I don't think anyone did, so. I think we're okay there.

Stephanie Wolf: Does anybody have any questions now that they're looking through it again? Okay so I'll need a motion to approve the Warrant #7 for \$114,104.42. Matt R. will make the motion, can I have somebody second?

[unintelligible]

Stephanie Wolf: Carol will second, or Meghann, either one. All in favor of approving Warrant #7 for \$114,104.42? Aye. Great, so the Warrant #7 has been approved for \$114,104.42. Great. Okay so we're moving on to public remarks. Sorry, I was getting some feedback. Are there any public remarks, Charlotte? There's no public here.

Charlotte Dunaief: There's no public here so there's, and I didn't get any-

Stephanie Wolf: And so we'll go to Communications, Donations.

Charlotte Dunaief: Okay, again there's a donation from, through Fidelity Charitable from Dr. Barry John Cappella for \$50.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so we need a motion to accept the donation from Dr. John Cappella for \$50 through Fidelity Charitable Trust? Meghann will make the motion, second? Matt S. All in favor?

Board members: Aye.

Stephanie Wolf: So we'll accept that donation. Any other communications Charlotte?

Charlotte Dunaief: No. I just wanted to let you know though that the *Cornwall Local* did pick up a nice article on, it's the Vietnam War and US Society lecture that is tonight, so it's the reason we now have a second Zoom account which we're probably going to cancel right after this meeting. Also, I don't know if you can see this, but our very own Matt Soltis is in April is going to be giving a lecture about *The Girl With The Pearl Earring*-

Stephanie Wolf: With the Pearl Earring-

Charlotte Dunaief: And the artist. The *Mona Lisa* of the north.

Matt Soltis: Looks nice, Charlotte. I like how it came out.

Stephanie Wolf: Nice.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yeah, it's very exciting.

Stephanie Wolf: When is that again?

Charlotte Dunaief: Hmm?

Stephanie Wolf: When is that, again?

Charlotte Dunaief: It's April 15th. We got it done quite a bit in advance. Thursday, April 15th from 6:30 to 8.

Carol Stein: Very good.

Stephanie Wolf: Awesome.

Carol Stein: I remember reading that book a long, long time ago.

Charlotte Dunaief: Time ago, yeah.

Stephanie Wolf: Same.

Carol Stein: I guess I'll have to reread it prior to your thing.

Matt Soltis: There is a movie too-

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah.

Matt Soltis: With Scarlet Johansen.

Meghann Chyla: Oh, yeah.

Carol Stein: Was it worthy of the book, Matt?

Matt Soltis: I, no.

Carol Stein: They seldom are.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah. It's very rare.

Charlotte Dunaief: Okay, so we just need to vote to accept the donation.

Stephanie Wolf: We already did.

Charlotte Dunaief: You did, okay, didn't hear it. Then I guess we move on to my report?

Stephanie Wolf: Yup.

Charlotte Dunaief: Again, COVID has been a major concern. I looked at the numbers today, they've come down in the surrounding areas quite a bit but they're still, there are still some, instead of being deep maroon they're just red, zones around, surrounding Cornwall. New Windsor, the City of Newburgh, the Town of Newburgh, one beyond it, they're, so there are like 4 or 5 spots in Orange County that have over 150 cases of COVID positive right now. So, but we are working on redoing, doing a new, you know, new opening to the public where we're going to be working on that tomorrow in a managers meeting and hope to have it soon open to the public. There are a lot of programs going on, the same as always, and there were I don't know, I don't know, I don't have a total for how many people came to programs but there were, you know, our normal Creative Writers group, the Virtual Members book group, the Out and About group, the Mystery Book Discussion, the Creative Writers, the Book Chat. Total adult programs were 9, with 93 in attendance, and children's programs had more because they're YouTube and they're posted at, and people can view them over the course of a couple of days. There were also 9 children's programs and it looks like we had well over 250 in attendance. Even though everything is pretty much virtual, except for the Family Fun Challenge which was a curbside pickup and had 61 families pick up the packet for that.

Stephanie Wolf: [unintelligible]

Charlotte Dunaief: That's pretty much all I have.

Stephanie Wolf: So you're working with the managers tomorrow to set a plan to open for appointments for browsing?

Charlotte Dunaief: Appointments for browsing and computers, yeah.

Carol Stein: So why do we need appointments? Can't we do, like a system where people just come in and then we have a count at the door and say "Okay we've reached our max." I mean I feel like, and I'm probably the broken record with this but, I know in the beginning when you wanted to go to WalMart, that was the system. Right now, I mean I've been able to walk into Barnes and Noble any time I want. I think maybe at Christmastime they had a counter and they said "Okay, we've got too many people. You have to wait," but I don't think we're going to get that many people that we're going to have to do that to hit capacity. And maybe we need to know what that capacity number is. But if people are, you know, there's signage that says, "Please

stand apart, maintain six feet distance” which is, you can use signage for anywhere, and wear a mask you know, we have the CDC even saying three feet now. And, we’ve got, you know, people hammering to get kids back in schools full time, 100%, and we still have a closed library. So I’m really of the mindset that we have to figure this out, I don’t know why we would still need appointments, I think we should allow people to come in at their risk. You’re not making them come in, and you know, if we see too many people close by we can say, look, you know again, if I choose to stand next to you for more than 10 minutes that’s probably my problem. I think we protect the staff, and if they’re too close to the staff we have stickers on the floor and say “No, please stand back.” And if you’ve ever been in a store someone has said that to you, the post office lady says that to you, “Please stand back.” But the post office didn’t close. It didn’t say, “Oh, you can’t mail your packages.” So I think we have to be insistent here and get the library open, and people have to decide for themselves if they want to go or not [unintelligible]

Charlotte Dunaief: [unintelligible] I have to say this, teachers are on the list to get shots.

Carol Stein: Charlotte, let me just finish for a second.

Charlotte Dunaief: The public library staff is not.

Carol Stein: Charlotte, let me just finish for a second, okay? The post office lady doesn’t have the vaccine yet either, and neither does every retail clerk. But what happens is that they are protected by the polycarbonate, or whatever method they’re using in terms of personally protective equipment and whatnot, and we have them stand back. So, like when you’re at the cashier you put your cart underneath. You’re not there and also you’re not more than 10 minutes next to cashier. So again, the rule is that if you’re exposed for more than 10 minutes, less than 6 feet. And if not, you’re really not getting it. So, the thing is, yes, we don’t want the staff to get it, but I don’t really care if Person A and Person B who are browsing for a book are next to each other for more than 10 minutes because that’s up to them. Like, I think we have to protect Meaghan and we have to protect Catherine and we have to protect our staff, okay, and we have to make sure that there’s signage, “Stand here, stand here,” and we enforce that. We have the gall to say, “Please move back one, you need to wait.” But other than that, it’s like, they choose to come in. You still offer the curbside service, you still, you know like most stores, you can either go into the store and buy your food or you can have it set for you to pick up, and you do a little of each. So I would like to see us open. Matt.

Stephanie Wolf: Go ahead Matt. You don’t have your microphone on.

Matt Rettig: Yeah. Well, I think Charlotte was, were you going to address that Charlotte, or? Okay, anyway, I mean, I disagree. You know, we have this plan, we had, you know we had the, you know, make an appointment and you’ve got 20 minutes or whatever, we did that regime previously. It seemed to work, it seemed to be popular. I think it addressed all the needs of staff. I think it addressed the needs of keeping patrons safe, you know, this is kind of a debate sort of going on in society writ large, right? To what extent do people get to make their choices and to what extent do we as leaders, you know try and keep the community safe. And so, there’s certainly a balance to strike there, but I feel like just sort of opening it to a free-for-all and hoping everybody wears their masks, does their six feet, does, you know, does the right thing. That works most of the time, but not all the time right? And so, as far as keeping the staff safe, I think has to be the number one thought in our minds, you know and I want the library open as much as

anybody, I get it, but I just don't think we are there yet, not "we" as the library Board. "We" as the State of New York or "we" as the United States. You know, like, we're just not there to just wide open, like "free-for-all, it's all good, wear your mask everybody's good," like, we're just not quite there yet. I think something like we did previously in the fall with appointments and the 20 minutes or whatever is probably the appropriate step for now. That's what I think.

Matt Soltis: I would just like to add by saying that I agree with Matt, I strongly agree. You know, the appointment system that we enforced previously has been tested, and we know it works. As somebody who was there, who volunteered there, I recall we only had ever I think maybe one problem with a patron, maybe. But, our region, we're just not ready. But in terms of the library being open, I think in times of COVID, that definition, it's important to note that the definition of being open has changed. The library is open, and it always has been open, and in fact now, because of virtual technologies and implementing Zoom for our programs, you could argue that our library has been able to reach more people than ever before. It's now, because of curbside pick-up, because of the things that we're enforcing currently that we have going on, it's more convenient than ever. So, if we choose to open for browsing and for computer use, I agree with Matt and the system that we previously have structured because we know it works.

Stephanie Wolf: Meghann, what do you think?

Meghann Chyla: I'm kind of torn, because I feel like, it makes sense to have a counter system, because wouldn't that be the same as like we only let however many people we would allow in if it was appointments, could we do it that way? That way you're giving the community a little more optics of it's open, but we're still only going to let in the number that the staff is comfortable with like your appointment system, do you think that would work to be like a compromise, or no?

Stephanie Wolf: Charlotte, how many people could you let in at a time?

Charlotte Dunaief: Well, it depends on how you count our space. I was told that you need 112 square feet per person of open space, which cuts our capacity-

Meghann Chyla: Right.

Charlotte Dunaief: Down to like 20.

Meghann Chyla: So could we let in just 20 at a time, because that's all that you would let in when you were appointment browsing anyway?

Charlotte Dunaief: We were letting in a little bit less than that when we were appointment browsing because we weren't letting more than one family in on the children's side, because-

Meghann Chyla: Right.

Charlotte Dunaief: You can't control what children will do, and we wanted to make sure that the patrons were as safe as we were. You know, you can't force a 4 year old to keep their mask on or to keep their finger out of their nose. I mean, I know there are stores that I will never go back into because I was standing on line, with my mask on, six feet away from people, and a kid pulled their mask off and stuck their finger up their nose and then ran around with it. You know

you just, I'm sorry, but I just feel strongly that there's too many variables out there that you can't control with children to allow more than one family at a time on the youth services side. Maybe-

Meghann Chyla: So would like the counter system not really work then, is what you're saying, because what if three families with little children showed up at the same time? Like technically you're under 20 but they couldn't all be in the same area at once, is that it wouldn't work?

Charlotte Dunaief: Exactly, yeah.

Carol Stein: Well, you could do a separate counter system for the children's side versus the adult side as well.

Meghann Chyla: True.

Carol Stein: But you know again, the positivity rate of five-year-olds is incredibly low, incredibly low.

Charlotte Dunaief: That we know of.

Carol Stein: Even if that five-year-old stuck his finger up his nose, he's really not giving it to anybody. And I think, you know, we have all these fears but there's also tons and tons of statistics out there that say that five-year-olds don't have COVID. So, you know, I just, again, I know I'm a minority and it's fine, I'm happy to be in a minority, I just wanted to go on record that I support having it open more. I think people have a right to choice. I feel like whenever there's, I haven't gone skiing once this year because I have to make a reservation to ski. I can't commit to making a reservation to ski-

Meghann Chyla: Yeah.

Carol Stein: Four weeks from now when I don't know how I'm going to feel, what I'm going to do, whatever, and I'm not paying money to do that. Like, and also, it's just, it's a hassle. People like, who are busy don't have time to make appointments to go to the library. But they, oh, no, you can't do it. So I feel like there should be some amount of drop-ins, maybe some appointments, I don't know. Maybe we have to just think outside the box to figure it out, see what everyone else is doing as well, and get a little creative, to allow a little more flexibility. It is public money, and that we are trustees for, and we need to think about that. So that's our role, is to be a trustee of the public and not all of the public is as worried as maybe we are, but again, protect the staff, use the barriers, make people stand behind, ask someone to leave if they don't wear a mask, and in school, if you see someone not wearing a mask you immediately say "Mask up!" And the people do it, you know they have it, and for the most part, I don't even think I have to say that ever because I don't think I've ever seen somebody not wearing a mask in school.

Meghann Chyla: I've never seen anyone. No.

Carol Stein: Right, they all know that while I'm here, I need to wear my mask. And honestly, I go shopping and I see people wearing masks, so, I mean maybe one time during Christmas did I see one person not wearing a mask. You know so I do think people are respectful of it, they get it now. Nobody wants to get sick. So I think we're being über cautious, and there's got to be some sort of happy medium is really what I'm asking at this point.

Stephanie Wolf: Charlotte, I know I've asked you before. What are other area libraries doing? I've seen that they are doing the appointment browsing.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right. Newburgh is curbside assistance only. Monroe is open, for-

Stephanie Wolf: Is open for just everybody to come in at any time, or?

Charlotte Dunaief: I think they allow 30 in at a time, yet they've had to close twice for COVID related issues.

Carol Stein: Well that means they're not protecting their staff. Did they put up barriers, what did they do?

Charlotte Dunaief: They did everything we do, except they allowed the public into the building more.

Carol Stein: But you know, the reality is, and I want to tell you how we're getting COVID quarantines in our school, and it's not from our staff, it's from, let's say Meghann is a teacher in Cornwall, and Meghann's spouse gets COVID somewhere else, and Meghann doesn't know it and she came in, and then she leaves immediately when she starts to feel bad or she heard her spouse is positive. Okay, that's when you're getting COVID. In the school, we're not giving each other COVID unless we, you know, something is happening from the outside. The staff can give each other COVID that same way, but in the school also we have rules. You can't be near somebody, six feet apart. You can't eat lunch together. We have the teachers eating lunch in the cafeteria eating apart and kids are eating in the classroom, where the desks are six feet apart. So we have set up systems for everything where we just tell the staff you can't be it, you've already done that Charlotte. You have fewer people in the back at any one time, the rest work remote, then you alternate, right? So everybody has a chance to come in and do their paperwork in their office and the rest are doing it remotely, and then you swap. You know we have the desk people, the circulation have the barriers, you can even put another one in between if you don't already have it. I haven't been in enough to see it, so that there's one in between the two. You know you have, you can have, put more around all the different reference desks, so that the staff are protected. And, I just feel like, so it is money, we have to allow the public to use their resource. We're asking them to pony up this million dollars, every year, for library taxes, and I just paid my property tax, it wasn't on that one it was in the school tax, but you know we all pay a lot of taxes here, and then we're going to ask them to vote, and I just don't want it to affect the vote at all. Plus I want people to be able to use their resource. And yes, I do agree Matt, we've expanded programs with COVID, we've done a phenomenal job, and I, kudos to everybody for that. I'm not disagreeing with that. And maybe it's something we want to consider continuing in the post-COVID world where we allow some of these programs for people who don't have, aren't able to get in to the library as frequently but are residents, and maybe would like to do it from the comfort of their home. So there's some hybrid that we can always continue on. Maybe offer a, some on each. So I'm not saying it wasn't, really, probably, in some ways it's been a good thing that we have to be more creative, but I still think it's my choice if I want to go in the library and expose myself. You know?

Meghann Chyla: Yeah, if it seems like the holdup is the children's area, if we can just do a counting system, maybe it's just one family per time over there, but otherwise the adults you would assume could all be together.

Charlotte Dunaief: But the thing is, with families, they're going to say, "Oh, let's go to the library," and they're not going to, a three-year-old or a four-year-old isn't going to understand why you won't let them in because someone else is already there.

Carol Stein: Then their mom has to say, or their parent has to say, "Sorry, it's closed right now, we can't go in." I mean, again, like people have to learn personal responsibility and that's life. Kids have learned a lot of hardships these last couple months, and they know they can't go to school every day, they only can go every other day or whatever it is. They understand that there's limitations and so they're told, "Yeah, we were excited to go to the library, but we'll have to come back another time." Or, "We have to wait a little bit in the car until it's our turn. Let's play a quick game in the car, and then it's going to be our turn to go in. As soon as we see the people come out we know it's our turn." I mean I think people can handle that. But, I mean, I-

Matt Rettig: What Meghann was suggesting, Meghann it sounds like you're suggesting sort of a hybrid, and I'm just trying to think it through [unintelligible]-

Charlotte Dunaief: I'm thinking we could probably do, what, like a, an appointment for Youth Services and allow adults to come into the adult side, is that what you mean, Matt?

Matt Rettig: Well, just, I, just sort of to clarify what Meghann was saying because, I mean, it sounds like it would be an appointment system but we wouldn't be sort of, you know, hardasses as far as kicking people out after 20 minutes or whatever. If nobody was waiting, yeah, you can browse the stacks a little longer. The idea still respect, and Meghann correct, you know just correct me if I don't have it right, but still respect the sort of the guidelines as far as the maximum of people in the building but be a little more flexible as far as yeah if there's nobody waiting if nobody else has an appointment behind you, you can stay beyond your 20 minutes or whatever. Is that, is that a-

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah.

Meghann Chyla: That idea, too. I wasn't even thinking about appointments, I was just thinking if a family showed up, like "Oh sorry, there's a family in here, you have to wait, you know your turn." But you probably, maybe like Carol said, or Charlotte said, maybe you do like a hybrid model, like you have to sign up for families but adults can just come and go as they want. I don't know, I'm just throwing out ideas of [unintelligible]

Stephanie Wolf: I have another idea-

Meghann Chyla: The optics of all this, you know? We have to, people are getting very emotional and very angry right now. I don't know if you've seen any of the stuff going on with schools but people are like storming the department of health this week to be like "You need to open five days a week," so I don't want us to look tone deaf, that we're not even trying to you know, optic wise. And if people don't feel comfortable you still have the curbside, you know? I

think maybe we're worrying about it before it even starts. Like, maybe it wouldn't be this mad dash to get in, I don't know.

Stephanie Wolf: What about something like a, the last time I went skiing, Carol because sometimes I do make reservations, but, a couple of the ski slopes have a reservation program, but if all the reservations aren't sold out, people can go up to the window and buy their ticket that day. But, you don't know that until you show up there and then they put a sign up, saying, "All day tickets are sold out. Come back another day." What if we did something like have a reservation system for people who definitely wanted, knew what time they wanted to come, and knew what time, you know, and so they came, so but if the building doesn't have any patrons in it at the time, and somebody shows up without an appointment, they can go in. Would that work?

Charlotte Dunaief: We were doing that. We were doing that when we had the appointments.

Stephanie Wolf: I don't think the public knew that. Because I didn't know that.

Carol Stein: No, they didn't know that. And they, you know that may have been for the few walk-ins that came no matter what. And the other piece to it is, you could also do something, think back to March, when we had senior citizen hour at the supermarket from like, the early hours so that they knew only senior citizens were there for an hour.

Charlotte Dunaief: 5 am to 6 am.

Carol Stein: So you could have a certain time of the library where it's appointment only for someone that really doesn't want to have a lot of people in the library, and then these other set of hours could be when it's kind of a free-for-all. Take your own risk. Obviously I'm saying protect the staff, and then after that you could maybe make some bands of time so that the hours shrink for those that want to be protected and the hours shrink for those that want a free-for-all. I think we just have to-

Matt Rettig: [unintelligible]

Carol Stein: I'm not saying we have to solve it today but I do think that Meghann is right. People are angry, they want their kids in school. They know they're not getting COVID in school, alright. We have not had kids get each other sick, and you know we've done everything we can and now we're going to be looking, by March probably, or early April, to have everybody back five days a week. So, and the CDC is relaxed now. More people are getting the vaccine, and yes, I know the library is not eligible yet, but they will be in the next phase I believe, so it's like, you know, hopefully we'll be able to move, and as more people are vaccinated the prevalence of COVID is going to go down.

Charlotte Dunaief: Meaghan Doyle, I saw you, it looked like you had something to say.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, you had your hand up.

Meaghan Doyle: Well I, Carol you kind of said, sort of, I think it was you, what I was going to say, which. I was just going to say how we did it in the past, and maybe Stephanie it was you who said it. In the Fall when we were open, we had the appointments, but if anybody showed up, as long as we had an opening we would say, "Okay, you don't have an appointment but you can

come in.” And we wanted to encourage the appointments because it helped with everybody with their planning, and it made the staff more comfortable knowing that we weren’t going to get overrun, just knowing that that was the system in place. But, we almost never had to turn anybody away who showed up. We really didn’t have, honestly most people wanted to stick to curbside. They didn’t want to come in. We would get calls and say, “Oh, you can come in now if you want to pick up,” and they would say, “No, I like curbside.” So we really, we were able to accommodate pretty much everybody who showed up, but some of them planned ahead and some of them didn’t. So, you know, I think that sort of hybrid system is kind of how it ended up working by default, even though-

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, I’m wondering if we could, Meaghan, say something like that, saying, you could make an appointment, if you have an appointment for that time you’ll be the first person allowed in. If you don’t have an appointment, if the building is filled, you’ll have to wait.

Matt Rettig: It’s just like a restaurant with reservations.

Stephanie Wolf: Exactly, it’s a reservation system.

Meaghan Doyle: Right. I think the only trick to that is trying to keep it simple.

Unknown: Yeah.

Meaghan Doyle: And it gets complicated the more you try to explain, “Well, appointments for this but not,” you know. Trying to keep it as simple as possible and the same as possible but then we just bend rules to make it work for the people who show up.

Carol Stein: Well, I mean, again, what time do the kids come in the most, Charlotte? I mean what, do they come in early, do they come in, is there, do they come in at 7 o’clock at night, can after 6 be non-kid time? You know like, the adults swim versus the kids swim? I’m really reaching here, but-

[unintelligible]

Charlotte Dunaief: Kids usually come in the most right after school.

Carol Stein: Okay.

Charlotte Dunaief: But if we're not going to be allowed to have more than one family in at a time because the youth services department is smaller than the adult services side, you can’t fit as many people in over there, the space itself is smaller, you can’t have people from different families next to each other.

Carol Stein: Well again, I don’t think that is our decision, whether or not we can or not have people together. I think it’s their decision. Our decision as a Board is to decide whether to open and how to protect our staff. I don’t need to worry about whether the Smiths and the Jones decide to be together. For all I know, the Smiths and the Jones are having a barbeque in the backyard together, or having, celebrating Christmas together as families, I don’t know what they did. And so, I can’t be their police people, but I want to protect our staff, and I want to make sure that they’re not going to get sick, so they have to be, you know, behind certain things and have people stay six feet away from them. That’s what I need to protect, but I don’t, I can’t know what

those other people are doing, and you know it's, that's where I'm at a loss here. I choose to go to a store, I choose to do something, that's my personal choice. And, you know, and I have to tell you though, I think a lot of things we've done with these executive orders are good, but I think we've also gone overboard. You know, I think we've become semi militaristic almost at this point. Yes, we need to protect the public but we've gone to the extreme right now, and it's scary. It's scary for people who, you know, have freedom as our basic thing here, it's scary right now. But, you know, and I'm sorry I went off on a tangent there, but.

Matt Rettig: Look, if people did what [unintelligible] there wouldn't be a need for these laws, right? You have to tell someone to back up or put their mask on it's kind of too late, so if people did it we wouldn't have to-

Carol Stein: Ten minutes, six feet apart, more than six feet. Ten minutes, more than six feet. It's extended exposure.

Matt Rettig: Right, [unintelligible] Anyway.

Stephanie Wolf: I'm going to try to wrap this up a little bit, just to give Charlotte some, it sounds to me kind of like a hybrid reservation-type system to give to Charlotte and the staff to figure if they can try to make that a simple system, to work? Could everybody get on board with that? Matt R. says yes, Meghann says yes, Carol?

Carol Stein: The two Matts were the ones that were a little bit more hesitant about opening. You know my-

Matt Rettig: Yeah, look, I'm not, I mean, yeah.

Stephanie Wolf: You want to go full throttle, I'm going to go three-quarters of the way.

Matt Rettig: Yeah, no, I mean Carol you're not, I don't disagree with your concern. I mean, it's absolutely valid, so we just need to thread the needle and figure out, you know, a middle way.

Stephanie Wolf: Matt S., you had something you wanted to say?

Matt Soltis: Oh yeah, thank you, Stephanie. I would just like to conclude by addressing the "it's my choice" point. I often like to explain it to people in this regard. If I'm driving, actually, I don't drive, right? The reason I don't drive is because I have epilepsy, and you guys didn't know that. I could be a danger to others on the road because of my situation. If I choose to drive, I'm endangering, and something happens to me, I could hurt somebody else because "my choice." Same if the, in other words, to simplify, I have a right maybe to make my choice until, my rights end where others' rights begin. Does that make sense?

Carol Stein: Matt, it makes perfect sense and I totally get that, but we also all know that every day when I get into a car to drive to work there's a possibility that I could get into a car accident, even if somebody with, you know, doesn't hit me for a reason, whatever. There's always that possibility and that's a risk I decide to take. And now what my point is here is that if I am worried about getting sick, I don't go to the library. I don't go to the store. I do the curbside. I ask for the store pickup. I go to the to-go order thing. I have something delivered. Like, there's so many, we have all done that, and I'm saying that part of our reopening plan should include

that continuation of service so that people who are scared or more at risk, or have less opinion, less freedom as I think I want to have, can still have that honored, and we have a service for them. So I think Stephanie's point about having some sort of hybrid approach, where we have the curbside, we have some appointments, and we maybe have some hours where it's whatever. You know I think, as long as the reopening plan protects our staff and has some semblance of saying, you know, you have to stand here if you want to wait to get your book checked out so that you're not next to my staff member for more than 10 minutes, closer than six feet, I'm good with whatever you guys come up with. But, you know I, and I want the plan to make sure that that's the case, because I know we spent months making sure that our plan in our school protected our teachers, our clerical staff, custodians, that's what's important to us, right? Then we worried about getting the kids in. We had a plan to do that, and we had stickers everywhere, and hallways that go this way and that way, you know, everything that we've done.

Stephanie Wolf: The library has all those stickers already and all the signs up on the book carrels, and-

Carol Stein: Right. And there's an element of training that has to happen with the staff to say that the staff have to be vocal and speak to somebody who's not wearing their mask, as soon as you recognize it, "Please put your mask on or leave." You know, if you can wear it. And, "Please stand back." You have to train the staff to have that, I don't want to use the work call but to have that confidence to say to somebody, "I'm sorry, you're in a public place right now, you need to do these things."

[unintelligible]

Carol Stein: In that Matt, I agree with you. And Matt, that's where I agree with you because that's my public responsibility to be in public, just like I have to get a vaccine to go to school, right? So there's certain public responsibilities we have to be a member of the public, it's to wear a mask and stand six feet apart. And everybody knows it right now. So.

Matt Rettig: Not everybody, that's the problem. [unintelligible]

Matt Soltis: Not everybody is that smart or careful, and as trustees, you know, I feel like we are responsible for our staff and our patrons a little bit. At least where I'm coming from, I want to protect everyone, even if I have to protect them from themselves.

Carol Stein: Well, you know, I [unintelligible] love that but I don't think we'll be able to achieve that.

Stephanie Wolf: So-

Charlotte Dunaief: Tomorrow I will start discussing with the department heads how to do a hybrid model to see how we can be more flexible and allow people back in more.

Carol Stein: Can we set a target date as a Board for when we would like to see this reopening? Because I would like to see it sooner than later.

Stephanie Wolf: Charlotte, you had thought that the appointments would be open within a week or two.

Charlotte Dunaief: I'm hoping within a week or two. I had already started working on it with the staff and talking to them about it.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay.

Charlotte Dunaief: So I'm hoping in a week or two.

Matt Rettig: And I think it, as far as setting dates and stuff like that, I think it has to be driven by what the trends are as far as infection rates, right?

Charlotte Dunaief: Right. Well right now New York is trending down, and our area is trending down.

Matt Rettig: It's trend is good, but the level is still high, you know.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yes.

Matt Rettig: So, we can't be fooled by a trend. So I, you know, it's just a very complex conversation, so, but setting an arbitrary date, I think we have to constantly evaluate, you know, where things are at.

Carol Stein: Yeah Matt, tell that to the people who said we had to open school on September 8th. I mean, you know, we, sometimes a date is a date, you have to make it work, and you know, we have to decide and get things in gear. Because if you don't ever set a date, nothing ever occurs, and that's my only, I worry about it.

Matt Rettig: Sure, and you can always back away from-

Stephanie Wolf: Amend it.

Carol Stein: You can always back away. You can come and tell us, "We couldn't do it by this date, and here's the reason why." But if we don't even have a target date, there's no-

Stephanie Wolf: No. Charlotte, do you think, what do you think is a reasonable target date, like the 22nd of February? That's a week and a half. March 1st?

Carol Stein: I was even thinking March 1st.

Stephanie Wolf: March 1st is two weeks.

Charlotte Dunaief: I was thinking, I was thinking February 26th, to be honest with you.

Stephanie Wolf: February 25th?

Charlotte Dunaief: 6th.

Stephanie Wolf: Oh, okay.

Carol Stein: Yeah, I mean I was even happy with March 1st. I just, you know I think we need to have something, a date in the sand and say, "Let's work toward this," you know?

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, I mean, February 26th is a Friday and March 1st is that Monday, so.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right, so sometime before March 1st.

Stephanie Wolf: Before March 1st.

Charlotte Dunaief: Hoping, I was hoping-

Stephanie Wolf: On or before March 1st.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yes.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay. Alright so I think we can move on to the Finance Committee. Thanks Matt S.

Carol Stein: So, the Finance Committee obviously worked on the budget. I will let Charlotte, as the Director, present the budget to us so, because our job tonight, it's either tonight or by March's meeting is to adopt the budget for the April vote. What is our April vote, is the 20th?

Stephanie Wolf: The 20th?

Carol Stein: Yeah. Which I thought I had no meeting and now I have a meeting. So anyway, bummer. Every year it happens. So I'll have to get an absentee ballot again. But anyways, so I think we have until March to adopt but if we could tonight it would be great. I don't think it's too controversial but I'll let Charlotte talk about it. Did you put the one page out, or the presentation out, or no?

Charlotte Dunaief: Meaghan. Can you share, can you share the presentation?

Meaghan Doyle: Yup, just give me a second.

Carol Stein: Drumroll, please.

Charlotte Dunaief: She wasn't expecting to.

Carol Stein: Okay, well, I think, you know-

Charlotte Dunaief: I was going to use a different computer to do it but-

Carol Stein: Did you put it on the shared Drive? I didn't see it on the shared Drive so-

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, I didn't see it there.

Charlotte Dunaief: It's not on the shared Drive. Meaghan's finding it, just give her a minute.

Carol Stein: [unintelligible] Because we've got to give the Board something to look at in other words so they can see it. I mean I can talk globally while you're doing that Meaghan so that we're not in dead silence. So, there's really not a lot of decisions that we're making in this budget. It's a rollover budget, or what I call a push ahead budget, which means we're not really going to have-

Charlotte Dunaief: It's really flat.

Carol Stein: We're not going to have the funds to do any major programs, any real changes to our strategy. It's great that we're going to be working on our Strategic Plan and hopefully at

some point be able to use, you know, put money toward the things we want to do, but this year is really not a lot of change. One thing we did change was the addition of a custodian, part-time custodian, and so that's something you will see tonight, and it's, again, it's just moving money from one place to another but it's a new concept for us so that's something we might want to talk about and see if everybody supports that idea. But with that, I will let Charlotte present the budget.

Charlotte Dunaief: Okay, so Meaghan you want to go to the next slide please. Okay, this is the materials and programming budget page. If you look at the top you see the books and ebooks are at \$68,258, which includes a \$6,000 increase for Hoopla, the new digital format, but not really a 6,000, I mean I put \$6,000 into a line for Hoopla with this. The movie and license fee is approximately the same as it was last year and everything else on this page has remained the same. Meaghan, next slide please. Okay, this is the total, the building operations and most of these items are non-negotiable costs because, and we'll be using CDC approved cleaning products that kill COVID germs. Repairs to building include minor repairs that can be done by a handyman or hopefully our new custodian if and when we can get one. And the service contracts include landscaping and cleaning.

Carol Stein: And that is one number we took down by a small amount-

Charlotte Dunaief: We took down that number.

Carol Stein: In order to fund the custodian. Took down some of the service contract numbers.

Stephanie Wolf: And, we're going to use the same snow plow folks and landscaping? I think we just got them this past year?

Charlotte Dunaief: Yeah, Beningers.

Carol Stein: So, again, the budget lock us into using any particular vendor it just allocates funds for it, so if we should find better vendors, or less expensive vendors that are still giving quality, that's really more-

Stephanie Wolf: Carol, I was afraid of prices going up.

Carol Stein: Yeah, and there's always a risk to that. There's always a risk to that, Stephanie, there's a risk to that on all things.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah.

Carol Stein: You know, and that's when, if we see that occurring, then we have to you know at some point pull back from somewhere else. So right so that's where you're always managing a budget. A budget's a plan made, you know, in advance for the following year, and you don't always have that much control over everything, you know you're trying to use your past information to guide you. But should that happen then you say okay, that's why you don't spend all of your book money in July, you wait, you hold some of it until the winter and seeing where you have all of your contracts. If it's a hugely cold winter, you know and you've spent everything and you can't afford fuel you're in trouble. So, you know, now in our case if we bought every book in July and we spent everything else, and then we had such a situation, then

we would be cutting staff, which is unfortunate, in the middle of the year. So that's why I would recommend we don't do all of that. But, I think Charlotte has done a good job of managing the budget and I don't see a risk to that, so. But yeah, there's always a risk that.

Charlotte Dunaief: Meaghan, next slide please. Okay, so this budget complies with New York State minimum wage requirements as far as I can see. There are seven full-time staff members and seven full-time equivalent part-timers. The part-timer count is nine in circulation, two in adult services at this point, one split between adult and youth services, four in the back offices, and a total of six pages that only work, like, six hours each, so it's not a huge amount of pages.

Stephanie Wolf: How many pages?

Charlotte Dunaief: The pages work about six hours each a week.

Carol Stein: There's six of them in the budget, Stephanie.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yeah.

Carol Stein: I think we also have a little bit of temp time for the summer programs for youth services.

Charlotte Dunaief: Yes, there are, there's an allocation in there for two library assistants for youth services to help them out with program prep and other things in the summer. Meaghan the next slide please.

Carol Stein: One more thing about that slide is that this budget does provide for a modest salary increase for all of our staff.

Charlotte Dunaief: That one. Okay next one then, Meaghan. Oh wait, did I, I skipped the library operations and fees. So, the supplies include program supplies, so if there's a program that needs supplies that's the budget line it comes from. Telephone and telecommunications has gone down by about \$1000 because I got a less expensive telephone service. Postage remains the same. Printing remains the, did we cut printing? No, we cut travel and conference by \$1000 because we're not travelling so much due to COVID. A lot of the meetings that we had been going to outside of the library are now via Zoom. Professional fees include lawyer and audit fees. Dues for professional organizations, I think we cut that a little bit too, and the contract for book processing means that our librarians don't have to spend, for certain books, time to cover and label. And then RCLS system services, that includes the fees for computers, regional network, and automation, that includes our ILS system and the ILLs that come from other libraries within RCLS. Next slide please Meaghan. The revenue, the tax levy would be 1,286,770. We've appropriated a fund balance of 35,000 to make the income match the expenses. We have other income, which includes income from fines, fees, donations and interest. And the tax levy increase for the 2021, 21-22 year would be \$22,965. And the next slide, I'm missing some of the figures, which is why there are question marks all over it. So, usually what we do with this page is tell people how much they would pay per thousand dollars of their home and how much a home with 250,000 and 350,000 values would, how much our taxes would be for that. But I don't have those figures yet. And, that's the budget.

Carol Stein: So again, there's nothing really exciting here. There's just not much we can do. We will, I do want to call to the attention that the revenues did not equal the expenses that we came up with, with is not a balanced budget, so in order to do that and still maintain the staff raise and the investments and things we wanted to do and not cut those, we are looking to appropriate \$35,000 from the, in sense our reserves or our surplus to put toward this budget. So that's definitely something the Board needs to be aware of, because it's the decision totally of the Board to do that. So, we did it last year, we actually did it to the tune of \$37,777 last year in the budget.

Stephanie Wolf: Carol?

Carol Stein: Yeah.

Stephanie Wolf: If we do it for the tune of 35,000 every year, how many years can we go?

Carol Stein: Well, so, I mean I think Emily can answer that question. A lot would depend on what we would do in the capital side. If we were never to touch another capital project, we could probably go several years doing that. But, if we were to continue to want to do things with capital or if we had anything break and we needed the capital for anything, we probably would run out in a couple years. Right, Emily? How much do we have left to do with.

Emily Milton: I would agree. We could do that for several years but also very noteworthy is that right now we're projected to not use that 37 that we appropriated from last year. So we should be able to-

Stephanie Wolf: So, I just want to, more, I'm sorry I'm going to put you on the spot a little bit more. When you're saying several, are you saying three? Are you saying five? Are you saying seven?

Emily Milton: Like Carol said, we, in the Capital and the investment fund, we could probably go five, six, seven years.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay.

Emily Milton: And not do capital projects.

Carol Stein: There's a couple assumptions there. So one would be that you're still able to maintain the surplus most every year. So, most every year, when you set a budget, you don't look to spend every dollar because you know you can't overspend your budget. That's a no-no, if you're spending more than your budget that's a deficit, you can't do that. The state does not like that. If we were to do that and we file an annual report, they would come down and audit us, and start to, you could even go into receivership. The government can't spend more than they've raised.

Stephanie Wolf: Right.

Carol Stein: So, that's why you put the fund balance appropriation. However, last year, we didn't need it. The year before, we actually had a very small, I don't think we had much. But this year, we probably will also end with a surplus again because some of our expenses are down because of COVID as well. Just like a lot of governments right now, you're not running at full

steam so you don't have every expense you would have had prior. And so you'll probably end up with a surplus situation, which then puts that money back into fund balance. So I do feel comfortable recommending it. I don't feel comfortable recommending it as a long-term strategy because it means you end up having to build a surplus in the budget so that you can then plug it. And that's where it gets tricky. Also, Meghann, Stephanie, to answer your question, should we have a really horrible winter, right, and I was talking about before, and we spent everything already in our budget, instead of cutting staff we could say "Oh, let's use up some of our other surplus to plug that hole, so we don't have to cut programs or staff," right? But you need to have fund balance in order to do that. If you've already used up all of your fund balance to create a budgetary hole, and that you needed it, right, then you wouldn't have any decision-making ability as a Board to do that. So, and then you would likely have to cut programs and staff. So, the portion of having that cushion is always to make sure that some major event doesn't break the bank, so to speak, and cause you to just totally change the way you operate. ERS rates have gone up this year, they could go up again, who knows? Maybe the investment cycles are bad and now they're going to go up another 10% or 20%. Those kinds of things add up. Health rates could go up again, they could skyrocket next year. I actually think they will next year because of the deferred, people have not gone to the doctor and there's going to be deferred costs so I fully expect next year to have a much worse health insurance present number than this year, so. These are all things that are risks that you just don't always know, you know that's why a budget is a plan, but I do feel we could sustain the 35,000 without too much of a problem, especially given that we didn't use, we're probably likely not to use the amount we put in last year. And the other aspect of it, just so the Board understands, I think I've talked about it before, is that you don't want to build such a big surplus that you're asking the taxpayer for money every year in the levy, and then holding that money aside, because, or then you tax them and say, "Ah, I'm just going to keep your money, and hold onto it." So-

Stephanie Wolf: That was my next question, Carol.

Carol Stein: The reason that, there's a fine line between the two, just like a fine line between being safe and opening and allowing freedom for people, there's the same thing, right, you have to balance those priorities and balance the needs of the long-term planning versus short-term plannings. So, I think short-term, we have a situation where we have a very low tax cap, and we have, we have to kind of use the money now. I think, in another year, where inflation starts to hit and we hit that 2% number or higher if we could ever do it, or when we feel comfortable going over the tax cap, which you know, we were going to do last year, so that we can right the ship in some of our areas with books and wages and things we really want to do, and match our Strategic Plan, and we take, we bite the bullet once and try to right the ship, and then just do more modest increases from there. So, until then we have to try to use the fund balance, and I think it will last us for the next one or two years until we get to that point where we feel comfortable asking the community for more. But just, you know, we all need to know we're doing it. I'm not losing sleep over doing it, put it that way.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay. Oh, Matt S. is back. Okay.

Carol Stein: I would if it was to the tune of a lot of money, like some budgets have huge amounts of fund balance appropriation that they cannot sustain, so then I would worry. But 35,000-

Matt Rettig: But we allocated 37,000 last year-

Carol Stein: Right.

Matt Rettig: But then didn't spend it. O where does that money, does it just kind of roll over-

Charlotte Dunaief: [unintelligible] we're going to spend it.

Carol Stein: Yeah, it just stays in fund balance, it just stays there. It you know, it's just not like lose it, we don't ever lose it.

Matt Rettig: Right, that's what I was asking. Where is it, can we just apply it to what you're recommending for this year?

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, we could just roll it over to this year.

Carol Stein: That's what we're doing.

Matt Rettig: Right.

Carol Stein: It's what we're recommending because we want to give people a raise and we want to have books and we want to still have Hoopla and have programs and we know we have to, you know, maintain the building and heat it and so these are all the things we want to do so yeah, we have to plug a little bit. We know our revenues are down, you know we're going to talk about fines, and even with this I'm a little bit worried because we probably won't even meet our revenue in that, maybe, you know it's been tough on that, but and that's a strategic decision that the Board is going to make about the fines, and that's a revenue source, so those are all reasons why we need to use the surplus because we know we're not going to get the revenue that we have been getting from other sources.

Stephanie Wolf: Remind me, what the Friends gives to us, is that included in that revenue number?

Carol Stein: It's in other sources that 22,500 of other sources.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, that's where I thought it was.

Charlotte Dunaief: They give us approximately 13,500.

Carol Stein: There is some talk of maybe the foundation resurrecting, and if it does and we could get some funds from there, that would be another great source of funds, and then it could open us up for either more programs or some more books or whatever things. Again, you know, resurrecting the Good Idea Fund I thought was a great idea, and you could always as a Board decide to use some of our surplus to replenish that fund and then allow the staff to be creative again. I think that's a great program. Allowing staff to be creative is one of the benefits of having such talented people.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so was the Finance Committee expecting us to vote on that tonight?

Carol Stein: I think it's best if we can. If we're all in agreement we should. If we're not in agreement we should hold off and then make changes but I think if we're in agreement we

should, so that Charlotte can start doing all of the things she needs to do to publicize it and get going. I mean last year we adopted it and then we unadopted it because things changed. But that was a weird year, and then we didn't end up going until like June for the vote. So we unadopted it and readopted it, so we always have that option too should something major change between now and March, we could certainly do that, but I don't foresee it. I do believe we're going to have a May vote, or an April vote, and then a school vote in May, I don't know if they're changing that timeframe this year.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah. Can people give me a thumbs up if they're comfortable voting on this tonight? Okay. Alright, so we're good to vote on it, I just wanted to make sure nobody had any further questions. So, I don't have the figures in front of me so I can't put any totals, so I'm just going to ask for a motion to-

Carol Stein: So, well I can give it to you. 1,344,270 would be our budget.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay. Thank you, Carol. So I'm looking for a motion to approve our 21-22 budget of \$1,344,270. Matt R. will make a motion, can someone second please? Meghann.

Meghann Chyla: Second.

Stephanie Wolf: Great. All in favor?

Board members: Aye.

Stephanie Wolf: So we are, adopted our budget for the 21-22 fiscal year of \$1,344,270. Great job, Finance Committee.

Carol Stein: I ought to give kudos to Emily on this a lot, she did a lot of the work for this. She put together the spreadsheets, checked formulas, reviewed everything, made changes, ran scenarios with different wage options for us to look at, and she and Charlotte really did a super job this year. The Finance Committee had to do very little, just kind of like oversight, and it was a good process. So I thank you Emily and I thank you Charlotte.

Charlotte Dunaief: Than you.

Stephanie Wolf: Good job.

Carol Stein: And probably behind the scenes, Valerie, right? So, in terms of providing some information I'm sure she was involved behind the scenes as well so I will give her kudos as well.

Stephanie Wolf: Nice. Okay, so we're onto the Policy Committee.

Meghann Chyla: Okay, so under the Google Drive there's just one document that says "February Policy Committee Report," where we only have two things to vote on for this month. We talked about the fines and I don't know if Charlotte wanted to bring up her discussion. I know in the Google Drive there's also information about fine-free proposals, so is that the time you wanted to talk about this now, Charlotte, before we go into the policies?

Charlotte Dunaief: If you want me to. I mean-

Meghann Chyla: Or later.

Charlotte Dunaief: The proposal is what I put up. I would like to, I'm proposing that we make all youth cards up through age 17 fine-free. Fines would not accumulate on their cards, they wouldn't be charged if they took something out from the adult section or the youth section. However, if an adult took something out of the youth section they would accrue fines. So, but this would make it easier for a student who needed to get a book out for school or to use our databases or our computers to be able to do it no matter how many overdues were on their card. And of course, you know, when those people come in, we talk to them about, that they have overdues and can they please bring them back, and after a certain amount of time, they get charged for those items. And I'm not 100% sure of the timeframe but it's I think 60 days after the last due date, they start getting, not fines but charged for the items.

Stephanie Wolf: So the items are considered lost, and so we charge them for them.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right, the items are considered lost and they get charged for them. However, if they bring them back, that all goes away.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay.

Meghann Chyla: Yeah. and had I put a question on the fines schedule about us discussing this, but to Charlotte's point, if we go fine-free for the age group of up to 17, that's not really included in this policy because the collection is not going to be fine-free, just the age group. Is that correct, Charlotte?

Charlotte Dunaief: That's correct.

Meghann Chyla: Okay, so that's really, I guess not an issue for this particular policy but it just, you know, lends itself to the discussion which is why I thought we should do that now. So these numbers were, you know, updated from the staff, so I don't know if anyone had an issue with this policy, per se.

Carol Stein: I would like to ask a question, if we have a problem with any of the museum passes not coming back timely?

Charlotte Dunaief: No, never.

Carol Stein: Never, okay. Because I know that, you know, a pass cost, to go to the museum costs like \$40-45, and if you're only charging \$10 for a museum pass I was just worried if people were taking advantage of that.

Charlotte Dunaief: No we've never, I think we had one that, and I think the people were moving and they packed it by mistake.

Carol Stein: Okay. Alright, I just wanted to know if that was a problem.

Charlotte Dunaief: No, it hasn't been.

Carol Stein: Should we update this policy now with the age limitations in here? Because it seems to be, should be together now that we're making a decision, assuming we make that decision should we make the policy before we vote on it now?

Stephanie Wolf: I would think so, then we don't have to vote on the policy twice.

Carol Stein: Yeah, I know we were going to vote tonight, but I think if we make a decision about that and we all agree then we should put that in here.

Stephanie Wolf: So, we don't have any figures about how much dollar figures we're talking about in terms of the childrens' or the youth cards fines?

Charlotte Dunaief: I'm going to say that when, I don't know if you remember, when MaryLou did a fine amnesty for all the youth cards, all the fines out on those cards, and they were, some of them were five or six years old, was under \$3000.

Stephanie Wolf: Oh. Okay, that was just a question. Okay.

Meghann Chyla: So, I guess, yeah, if we're going to make a decision about youth fines, I'm not really sure on this policy where we need to mark that.

Carol Stein: Well, I think we just need to add a statement that-

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah, add a statement.

Carol Stein: Not, keep the fines, because if an adult decides to take out children's materials-

Meghann Chyla: Right.

Carol Stein: I guess they would be subject to fines, but-

Charlotte Dunaief: I think all that you would do would say, somewhere in there, "The Cornwall Public Library does not charge fines on youth cards ages up to 17."

Carol Stein: But still charges for lost materials, or something like that.

Charlotte Dunaief: "But still charges for lost and damaged materials."

Meghann Chyla: Okay.

Stephanie Wolf: I guess we need to vote on that we're going to go fine free for the youth cards.

Matt Rettig: Right, so you want to vote to like amend the proposed fine policy-

Stephanie Wolf: And then do one vote all together?

Matt Rettig: Yeah.

Carol Stein: I think the Policy Committee needs to rewrite it and then bring it in March, just because we shouldn't be voting on a policy that we're trying to still amend tonight, like.

Stephanie Wolf: Yeah.

Meghann Chyla: I'll just add it onto the review side, and yeah, we'll vote in March. The only other policy, sorry?

Stephanie Wolf: I was agreeing, I said okay.

Meghann Chyla: The only other policy, yeah, we were going to look at was the Circulation Loans Period Policy. So I don't know if you consider this, like, with the fines or this is kind of just different, this is just about like how long there are for you know, renewing allowances. This seems a little different to me but if you want to hold off we can wait until next month for this as well. What do you think, Charlotte?

Charlotte Dunaief: I, it's a totally different policy.

Meghann Chyla: Okay, so let's just-

Charlotte Dunaief: The Loan Period Policy is-

Meghann Chyla: Yeah, not related to your fines.

Charlotte Dunaief: Not really related, yeah.

Meghann Chyla: I don't know if anyone else has questions on this, we looked at it last time, but-

Carol Stein: I would just change one word, Meghann, and instead of saying "older books" I would say "other books" because how you define "older books," like if it's not new fiction, fast fiction, new nonfiction, then it's "other." Yeah, if we haven't defined it as one of the one above or an audiobook then it's "other."

Meghann Chyla: Okay.

Carol Stein: Because to say older implies, eh.

Charlotte Dunaief: I think I left the wording as it was for that in the last policy.

Carol Stein: I would just-

Meghann Chyla: Alright, I'm taking out "dusty old books" and putting "other."

Carol Stein: There we go.

Meghann Chyla: And then, Meaghan Doyle, I know you're on the call, I think we were having you double check the numbers per Charlotte's request-

Charlotte Dunaief: She did double check them and that's why I amended a few.

Meghann Chyla: Okay. Alright, as long as it looks good to you guys, I don't know the particulars. So we could just vote on that tonight and be done then if that's okay with everybody.

Stephanie Wolf: Yup. So we'll need a motion to approve the Circulation Loan Periods Policy.

Carol Stein: So moved.

Stephanie Wolf: Second, Carol made the motion, anyone second? Matt R. will second. All in favor? Aye. So we've approved the Circulation Loan Periods Policy and we will look at the fines next month.

Meghann Chyla: Okay.

Stephanie Wolf: Now Building, Garden and Grounds Committee. Melissa isn't here but I know Charlotte you were going to speak to one or two things?

Charlotte Dunaief: Well I just want to let you know that although RPC is done with the installation, the lighting company has to order a few parts that didn't come properly, so RPC will have to come back and fix them, but we do not have to pay them for the repairs, the lighting company is paying them to do that. I have to nudge them tomorrow, I wanted to give them a couple weeks to make sure that the parts came in, but I haven't heard from either company yet so I will send them both a little nudgey email tomorrow. And I think that was all that the Building and Grounds Committee had talked about really this month.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay. And we'll skip over Friends, unless anybody has anything for Friends because, with Melissa not being here.

Charlotte Dunaief: No.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so Personnel Committee, we did not meet this month, we had some scheduling conflicts. I did attend a Human Resources webinar that Grace did for RCLS for trustees. She sent some links to some websites that I'll send, share with all the trustees about just you know civil service rules and some resources and places to find answers to some questions if we find we have them.

Charlotte Dunaief: While you're talking about training that you took-

Stephanie Wolf: I'll send it to you too, Charlotte.

Charlotte Dunaief: When you, when any member of the Board does a training, could they please email me that they did the training because I need to count that on the annual report to the state.

Stephanie Wolf: Oh, okay. I will do that.

Charlotte Dunaief: Thank you.

Stephanie Wolf: And, to that end, on this email that I'll send to you is also one of the harassment trainings that we all need to take, so.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right.

Carol Stein: If we took it somewhere else, do we need to retake it?

Charlotte Dunaief: No, you just need to email me that you've taken it and where you took it.

Carol Stein: Okay.

Stephanie Wolf: I have my HR person email Charlotte that I took it.

Carol Stein: Okay.

Stephanie Wolf: Because I don't get a certificate, but they keep record that I took it.

Charlotte Dunaief: That's acceptable, yeah. I just have to have proof that you took it.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay, so our Unfinished Business was age group or collection, we already went through that.

Charlotte Dunaief: Right.

Stephanie Wolf: Okay. Any New Business? Nope, so I think we're good. Alright, so I need someone to make a motion to adjourn. Our next Board meeting will be March 11th. So I need someone to-

Carol Stein: March 11th, or March, oh yeah, today is the 11th. I thought it was the 12th already.

Stephanie Wolf: It says March 11th, 2021 will be the next Board meeting.

Carol Stein: Okay.

Stephanie Wolf: We'll have to see what-

Matt Rettig: Thursday, yeah. It's the same-

Carol Stein: Yeah. It's right. 28 days in February, duh.

Matt Rettig: Not a leap year, yeah, I mean.

Carol Stein: Yup.

Stephanie Wolf: I just thought I'd check something.

Carol Stein: And again, I will reiterate, as you make your reopening plan, Charlotte, make sure you are protecting the staff. That is a key objective so, you know, however you end up deciding to do it, please keep that in mind, that is our priority. I do agree with everybody on the call, or on meeting for that point of view.

Stephanie Wolf: Alright, so I need, I was just looking at the calendar, Matt S., to make sure that your *Girl with the Pearl Earring* wasn't the same night as our Board meeting, and it's not. Good planning. So, I need a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting, please.

Meghann Chyla: Adjourn.

Stephanie Wolf: Meghann will make the motion, Matt R. will second, so I will adjourn the Board meeting at 8:17. Thank you everyone.