**Place:** Zoom Online

**Date:** January 4, 2023

**Attending:** Stephen Cary, Meghan Lunghi, Matthew Reilly

**Absent:** Clodo Concepcion, David Maynard, Meghan Lunghi,

**Staff:**

Molly Fogarty, Library Director

Jean Canosa Albano, Assistant Director

Aieshya Jackson, Business Manager

Jamillah Medina Nova, Community Relations Coordinator

Christopher Frank, Emerging Technologies Librarian, East Forest Park Branch

**Call to order:** Meeting called to order at 5:34 p.m.

**­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­­**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 1. Approval of Minutes from the November 2, 2022 Library Commission Meetings. | There was no quorum and therefore no approval was voted upon. |  |
| **2.Staff Presentation:**  **Christopher Frank, Emerging Technologies Librarian, East Forest Park Branch Library** | Mr. Frank gave the Commissioners and staff a tour of the Makerspace at the East Forest Park Branch and showed off some past and current projects that had been made in the space. He gave anecdotes of patron use and how he has witnessed, first-hand, the impact using the space has made on them. Some of the projects included 3D printed items, robots that traveled on a coded path, balloon powered cars, hand sewn projects, and resin projects. There is an LED bracelet workshop happening in the near future and there are many plans for the Cricut design space as well as sewing machines. Mr. Frank hosts Tech Drop-In where patrons can come and ask any questions about their tech products and there happened to be a patron waiting for their appointment by the end of the tour. Commissioners commended the work of Mr. Frank and started brainstorming ways they could get use out of the sound booth and let more high school students know about the area. Ideas consisted of ambassadorships with local teens for makerspace and library in general, and including the makerspace in the upcoming video projects in collaboration with community members. |  |
| **3. Commission Committee Reports** | No report. |  |
| **4. Chairman’s Report** | Commissioner Cary spoke about ways to make meetings hybrid with some members in person and others remote. This option would be helpful in getting a quorum for voting by having a better chance on attendance. This would require a policy change to be molded after the Library Foundation or City Council. Use of the OWL machine would be the first choice option.  Mr. Cary also introduced collaboration between Focus Springfield and The Library to begin video projects that would be a step up from the short videos created by Jamillah Medina Nova during the building closures. These videos are looking to reach more of the community and answer questions they didn’t know they had or to show familiar faces using the many amenities of the library. For example: did you know you could borrow a ukulele from the library? This led to an open discussion of ideas for future videos with input from all in attendance.  He also discussed ways that funds from the Rose Smith Endowment (which is a fund specifically to be used for music) could be implemented. Vanessa Pabon from NEPM has hip-hop musicians that are willing to host programming for teens. |  |
| **5. Library Behavior Policy Revision: Vote Needed** | The Behavior Policy amendment removed biased and exclusionary language and references to eating and drinking in the library. The new policy would make it clear where eating and drinking are permitted. “There are designated places in every location.” The policy and good practice moving forward aim to tell people what they CAN do rather than what they can’t do. The date on the behavior policy will need to be amended due to lack of quorum during this meeting and will be on the agenda for the February 1, 2023 Commission meeting. |  |
| **6. Director’s Report** | Director Fogarty reported that the Library van has been delivered and everyone is excited to plan to use the Van for Library Outreach services. The staff is brainstorming ways to announce it and all of the ideas it can be used for. Items for the annual report are currently being collected and getting sent to TSM. They will use it to create a theme about coming out of the pandemic with statistics, grants, photos, notes and more. The report will be produced, both, in print and digitally. The Springfield City Library’s State Aid application was approved by the MBLC at their December Board meeting, Thanks to Ms. Jackson for submitting the Financial and Compliance Reports. The Library is in compliance with all state standards and is officially certified. The MBLC worked with the State Legislature and received a 10% increase in the State Aid to Public Libraries line item. Springfield received $495,059 for FY23. $250k is going to offset the general fund, the rest will go to fund Substitute Librarians ,toward new computer equipment and other needs.  The MeeScan is almost ready to roll out at The Central Library. It is being tested there first before investing for each branch, Staff will be getting trained in the upcoming weeks.  November 3rd the MBLC had a monthly board meeting and hearing in the afternoon to gather comments on proposed new regulations for their public library construction program. The new regulations make the application for grants process much more streamlined- based on community need.  December 11th The Central Library hosted the annual Suzuki Talent Education Partnership (STEP) Annual Interfaith Holiday Sing Along which brought in a great crowd and on December 18th the James Baldwin photo exhibit curated by Ed Cohen which was a great success and had lots of help from staff. The photo exhibit and related programming was coordinated by Elizabeth McKinstry. The exhibit will be up until the end of February for all who want to view it. |  |
| **7. New/Other Business** |  |  |
| **8. Executive Session:** | **Not Needed.** |  |
| **9. Adjournment** | **6:52 pm** |

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

, *Secretary*