

Great Barrington Library Board of Trustee Subcommittee Meeting
for strategic Planning 2023
June 20, 2023 2:52PM
Town Hall (virtual and in person)

Roll Call: Pat Hollenbeck; chair, Rob Shaeffer, Sandra Pantorno (via zoom), Ruby Chang, Sharon Gregory as community member.

Pat: Farmer's market has table this weekend for survey distribution.

Survey discussion: Ruby reviewed the survey at present and passed some copies around.

Review inspiration from Aspen Institute Action Guide for Re-envisioning Your Public Library,

What things we should consider, library as a person, community. Diversity, health taxes, tech.

Survey encompass some of the ideas from that article. Time line for the Strategic Plan was also sent out to Pat to disperse to everyone. There was one copy for passing around. The timeline was authored by Sharon Gregory. We need to work on what the committee members would look like, such as Donna Brown from the library, Sharon Gregory has started volunteering her time over viewing the strategic plan. Donna can recommend people from the community. Pat: Michelle Loubert and Tate Coleman, who worked for the transportation system and may be of help.

Rob also mentioned several people who he could interest in this role as well.

Sandra: diversity is important such as reach out to staff at Railroad Street Youth Project.

Involved with community. Another approach and thinking. Not just old white folks.

Rob also knows someone from the Hispanic community who is interested in the library who might be interested.

Pat: the more the merrier.

- Rob: From working at Farmer's Market, people can be local or from elsewhere, the questions are relevant to Mason and Ramsdell but they may use other libraries, should we request survey from people out of town?
- Sharon feels their opinion is also important. It opens another view. Philosophical way to ask people about libraries and also specific fill our goals. Example: survey results support the directions for the SP (Strategic Plan) for the next 5 years. Her review of past history noted Ramsdell could have been renovated 5 years ago. We are behind as a town having more programming etc.
- Sandy: She does not care people from outside how they think about our library. She care about what our community think, She would personally prefer people from our community. She feels not an issue to ask if they are a local resident.
- Pat: MBLC really care about what people think and focus on the future; where is society going. Can we have a small survey and still collect the data? MBLC is what they are looking for, up to 50 years in the future. Collect from resident.
- Sharon: ask for Zip Code. 40% of the grant application has to do with "community with needs". The needs in Ramsdell is critical. 3 months to do the strategic plan, survey is important, put needs in the survey.
- Rob: looking for majority of consensus.
- Sharon: looking for diversity and foreign languages. Gave examples.
- Discussion in general about what each member would like to include in the survey
- Timeline: Sharon printout the SP is due October 1 and time is needed to analyze the data.
- Pat: reviewed last strategic plan, survey filled by about 300+ people.
- Ruby recommend getting gift certificate to Bookloft for raffle draw. Vote for same survey for out of towers and residents. We can keep the zip code in the survey.
- Also, discussed ways of distribution, door to door, doctor's offices while people are waiting. Etc. reach out to homeschoolers who use the library quite a bit and need their input. Reach out to VIM who have translators.
- Sandra would like the survey in both English and Spanish.

- Pat: reach out to Laurie in the children's library for her input on the survey esp. YA reading programs.
- Rob will look into Google Translate and have it refined by those who speak Spanish fluently.
- Ruby request members of the subcommittee to review the survey in the next 3 days so it could be finalized .
- Next meeting will be Monday, June 26, 2023 at 5:30PM and will be virtual only.
- Zoom session ended at 3:25 PM

Respectfully submitted

Ruby Chang
Library Trustee secretary