

Smithfield Public Library Board Meeting - November 16th 2022

Attending: Karen Bowling, April Godderidge, Eric Bingham, Todd Durrant, Bill Emmett, Kathy Toolson

Finished interviews with job candidates, a couple very good candidates.

Karen's goals are:

1) Change the reputation of the library to make it feel more welcoming. Redo and market the library mission statement to reflect the new direction of the library as being more program-oriented.

2) Change the culture among the staff to make it more of a team. Staff will have more specific roles to contribute as part of the team.

Is there a way to get information to new city residents? We can approach the city about giving library info to new utilities accounts.

Library had a good pie night. There was a packed house for the recent presenter, so events have started well. We need to be careful with photos of the public (especially children) for media.

We can think about improvements to mission statement. Board can write mockup statements (one sentence). Karen will send buzz words.

We all watched online training videos for board members. Talked to Marty Reeder and he accepted a library board position. We'll still need to think of more potential board members. Discussed a few possibilities.

Somebody mentioned that a youth council member could come to these board meetings to give input from a young perspective. Karen can approach counsel to see if anybody is interested.

We should start revisiting library policies. We could wait until the new Director is in place. Maybe we can prepare by reviewing and becoming familiar with existing policies and mission statements to identify anything problematic.

Budget will need to be increased, so we need to show how a larger budget can realistically increase the library's value to the community. Recent event turnouts should help show that value. Some ideas may fail, but things must be tried.

We could survey the community for ideas and approach different community members when their talents and specialties could be beneficial.

January 18th 2023 is the next board meeting.