

Keene Public Library
Building and Grounds Committee

Meeting held 01/19/2024 at 10:00 AM (Draft)

Members present: Susan Bloom, Paul Henkel, Justin Somma, Kathleen Packard and Marti Fiske. Staff member Jay Fee also attended.

Minutes of our last meeting were approved.

Maintenance - No significant building issues were reported. Shoveling of the bus stop shelter has been requested. Cleaning and potential adding a single seat will be discussed with HCS which runs the busses and we believe maintains the bus shelters.

New AV Equipment – A podium costing \$260 plus estimated \$95 for Cohen Hall was proposed by Sussan and Marti. Justin moved and the committee voted that we recommend to the Board that up to \$400 from the B&G budget be spent to purchase the recommended lectern.

An acoustically skilled user of the Annex has stated that the Hall needs acoustic improvement. Staff presented two bids obtained from acousticians. Justin moved and Kathleen seconded a motion to recommend to the board that this project be funded and move forward. Marti and staff will investigate further to determine which acoustician is to be hired. It is anticipated that after the study is completed, acoustic panels on the walls may be recommended. Marti showed us samples of four acoustic panels. Funds may come from the Heberton cost center, which requires approval of the Board, the Friends and the City Manager.

The main lobby including the circulation desk has noise and voice projection problems which compromise privacy of interactions, so the lobby may also be investigated. Of course, additional funds for the circulation desk area would be otherwise provided.

Landscaping/Tree Identification– Jay Fee has had contact with Frank Grano at Bartlett Tree. Frank suggested the tree QR code identification project needs to be incorporated into a larger seasonal contract. Jay Fee presented a QR code that had been laser etched at the Keene Public Library on a black aluminum plate. The code has excellent contrast. It is scratch proof and in all likelihood it will stand up to outdoor conditions just fine. We were all impressed.

Paul Henkel, Chair

Schedule for next meetings: TBD