

**VERMONT BOARD OF LIBRARIES  
MINUTES OF MEETING**

**DRAFT**

**January 9, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**  
**Fletcher Free Library**  
**Burlington, Vermont**

**Members present:** Bruce Post (Chair), Deborah Granquist (Vice Chair), Scott Murphy (State Librarian, Secretary) Josh Fitzhugh, Jim Gish, Tom Frank, Maxie Ewins, Lars Torres

**Others present:** Cherie Yaeger (Executive Assistant to the State Librarian), Cass Mabbott (VTLIB), Judy Dow, Kim Chase, Kathy Orwell, Irene Wrenner, Helene Lang, Richard Lang, Megan Butterfield

**Call to Order:** Chair Bruce Post called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m, and welcomed new member Lars Torres. Post then asked for introductions around the table. Post noted, that this may be the last meeting for Deborah Granquist, if unable to be re-appointed due to term length. Post then asked Maxie Ewin, a past Library Director of Fletcher Free Library, to speak a little on the library where the meeting was being held.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of July 11, 2017 were adopted with these corrections:

- Page 2, section Geographic Naming, add U.S.G.S, in place of question marks, when referring to what organization Monique is from.
- Page 3, section Strategic Goals Update, add apostrophe to the word Departments, located in 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> paragraphs.

Josh Fitzhugh made a motion to approve the July 11, 2017 minutes. Maxie Ewins and Tom Frank both seconded. All members approved unanimously in favor, with corrections.

**Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award**

Discussion by the board on whether or not to rename the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award started at 10:15 a.m.

Post gave a brief summation of the conversation surrounding the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award topic at previous meetings Board of Library Meetings. In April, at Mid-State Library in Berlin, Judy Dow requested to address the board about changing the name of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. The July board meeting, also held at Mid-State, allowed people to testify on the merits of keeping the name of the book award or changing the name of the book award. Helene Lang, Judy Dow, Thomas Mulholland, Kim Chase, and Jessie Haas all spoke at the October Board of Libraries

meeting. The October board meeting did not have any discussion on the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award, so that Department of Libraries staff could conduct research on the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. Post noted from the October board minutes that Josh Fitzhugh felt that the Board of Libraries owed the public some sort of resolution on the board's opinion on this topic. Post also noted at this time that Channel 17 was in attendance at the current meeting, and he wanted to remind the board and community members in attendance that the Board of Libraries can only provide advice to the State Librarian, and in particular on the topic of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award.

Bruce presented a Proposed Resolution he wrote for board members concerning the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. This Proposed Resolution was proposed by Post as a way to start discussion on the topic of the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award, and he noted that it did not have to be voted on. Post noted that Fitzhugh mentioned at the last meeting that the board might consider a resolution, Fitzhugh offered Post some ideas on the resolution and with Post's own ideas Post framed the Proposed Resolution. Post read the Proposed Resolution out loud to the board and all community members in attendance, it was then handed out to all board members and to attendees.

As originally written the Proposed Resolution contained 3 key resolutions.

- To rename the book award
- To review the name of the book award at least every 15 years, or as needed.
- That the Executive and Legislative arms of the government, and the University of Vermont convene a special commission to investigate and atone for the eugenics movement in Vermont.

After the reading of the Proposed Resolution Board members were asked for their thoughts. Post stated that it is unfortunate that Dorothy Canfield Fisher has been a focus of the eugenics movement in Vermont, when in reality this was a larger movement than just one person. Tom Frank recommended that the resolution be split into two separate resolutions. The recommendation was to separate the Dorothy Canfield Fisher resolutions into one Proposed Resolution for the State Librarian, and the create another Proposed Resolution from the board in reference to the third resolution, investigating the eugenics movement.

Maxie Ewins stated that the Proposed Resolution sounded like an indictment to Dorothy Canfield Fisher, and wanted to know if parts could be worded differently.

Josh Fitzhugh acknowledged Judy Dow and Helene Lang and the work they have both put into this conversation of renaming the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. Fitzhugh recommended that the board either look at the proposed resolutions set forth by Post, and see if there any changes the board could make, or decide if they want to each say their own opinions on this topic.

Fitzhugh was also concerned that the resolution was over-stepping the limits of what the board was created for, and that is to make recommendations and give advice to the State Librarian. Jim Gish noted that the resolution was very black and white, and he wanted to make sure that the accomplishments of Dorothy Canfield Fisher are noted in the resolution. Gish also believes that the third resolution, investigating the eugenics movement, is beyond the jurisdiction of the board.

Lars Torres wondered if there was a way to reword or rework the third resolution, so that it was more fitting for the role of the board. Deborah Granquist appreciated all of the 'where as' clauses, but felt that one was missing, state how remarkable a woman Dorothy Canfield Fisher was and stating what she accomplished during her life. Granquist & Frank also agreed with Jim Gish, that the third resolution does not belong, and if the board wants to address it, it should be addressed separately.

Post invited comments from community members in attendance. Helene Lang, Judy Dow, and Kim Chase all expressed their thoughts on the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award and if the name should be kept or changed. Ewins reminded everyone that the importance of this book award is encourage children to read.

Granquist made a recommendation for the new whereas clause, which Post noted and will add to the resolution. Gish asked Kim Chase, Judy Dow, and Helene Lang what their opinion is on the nature of the book award, and if they would like the name to stay as is or change. Judy Dow would like the program to continue, however she would like to see the name changed to something honoring the youth the book award is for. Helene Lang would like the name of the book award to remain, as the Dorothy Canfield Fisher Book Award. Kim Chase requested that the board resolve to recommend that this book award have the name Dorothy Canfield Fisher removed from the award name.

Josh Fitzhugh made a motion to resolve, put it on the table at least, that the board resolves for what is referred to as paragraphs 1 and 2 in the document. Post asked for a second, Maxie Ewins seconded. Post then asked for any discussion, Torres and Frank both spoke. Torres, said that in pursuing this path that it might be useful to create criteria on what an appropriate book award name is. He also notes, the proposal says that the name should be changed, however it does not say what is the board, or should the Department of Libraries be looking for in a book award name. Also, has a concern with changes as noted during discussion of the proposal by the board, and noted by Post. Post will make board recommended changes to the Proposed Resolution, and will send out to the Board of Libraries when changes are completed. Frank noted that when naming the award, we need to stay current, and that it should be noted that the name is being changed because the name is not current and people no longer know who Dorothy Canfield Fisher is.

Post mentions that there is a motion on the table from Fitzhugh, and if anyone wants to propose an amendment they may do so. Granquist asked Post to restate the motion before the board voted. Post stated the motion on the table is for the board to resolve 1 and 2 of the Proposed Resolution.

Jim Gish, made a motion to amend the Proposed Resolution. Gish noted that the board up to that point had given no rationale, to recommending the name change, and he suggested the change, "The State Librarian should rename the children's book award to appeal to appeal to the understanding of contemporary student readers, taking recommendations from the book award committee and other interested parties recognizing, honoring, and encouraging authors of children's literature, particularly those with a Vermont Connection." The rest of the resolution would read as it currently does.

Fitzhugh, accepted that change. The members continued discussion of how to rename this award, and

more discussion on the Proposed Resolution.

Post stressed to the board that the role of the board is as an advisory role to the State Librarian only and wanted to move the discussion to a resolution. The board finalized wording of the resolution, and then moved on to vote on the motion on the table.

Proposed Resolution to read as follows:

1. That the State Librarian should rename the children's book award to engage the understanding of contemporary student readers, taking recommendations from the book award committee and other interested parties, recognizing, honoring, and encouraging authors of children's literature, particularly those with a Vermont connection; and

2. That the name of the award be reviewed at least every fifteen years, or earlier if appropriate."

Post called for all in Favor, ayes were unanimous.

Post called for a vote on the proposed resolution. Post noted the ayes have it, and the board is in favor 7 – 0 of the Proposed Resolution.

## **Updates from Libraries**

Scott Murphy, State Librarian, talked about the move of the Department of Libraries to the Vermont History Society in Barre. Scott noted that Cherie Yaeger will be the project manager for the move, and Tom McMurdo is in charge of collections for the move. The Board asked about the Berlin Library, Scott said that the collections in Berlin will be moving to Barre also, and the Berlin location will be closing. The move date is tentatively scheduled for June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The July meeting will be held at the libraries new location in Barre.

The Department is working on partnerships with the Department of Libraries, ACCD, and the State's Training Unit.

Granquist asked Scott what he sees of the role of the Board of Libraries in the future, and Murphy noted that the board will be called upon to help with library standards.

## **Geographic Naming**

The board will address applications for requests for geographic naming at the April meeting. The exact locations to be addressed at the April meeting will be addressed before the next meeting, and the proposers will be notified.

The location of the next meeting will be held in or near Rockingham, so that the board is close to some of the locations they will be discussing for renaming purposes.

Information on geographic naming needs to be sent to new board members Torres and Frank.



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*Agency of Administration*

**Other Business:**

The exact number of years and terms needs to be verified for all board members. Josh Fitzhugh will check with the Governor's office on what the current terms are.

Josh Fitzhugh made a motion to suggest that State Librarian Murphy propose to the Governor that Bruce Post and Deborah Granquist be reappointed to the board. Jim Gish seconded. All board members voted unanimously in favor.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.