Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order at 11:30am

II. Minutes of 2-23-24 approved. Noted edit to minutes: we’d originally listed 3-22-24 as our next meeting date/time before having to reschedule to today, 3-29-24.

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Collection Development Benchmarks - Is there a way that we can share the data that Betsey presented to our group with the public? Ginny mentioned a new media outlet in our community, The Amherst Current, which will have a regular feature on the building project. Mia suggests that the data about our collection diversity can be provided in the context of collection maintenance and the work being done to prepare our collection for a temporary location, including decisions we are making about how to help the public access our collection during the next few years (what parts of our collection are browsable vs. pageable; how to use our full regional CW MARS system to access resources; the necessity of maintaining a healthy current collection through judicious weeding). Raphael notes that we should share this information on behalf of the Library rather than the JEDI subcommittee specifically. Melissa provided the perspective that media outlets in our community can be very polarizing and notes that we should be aware of this. The group consensus was that Ginny will discuss with Betsey and Sharon and it would be best for Betsey’s report to be posted on the Library site or attached to a newsletter.

V. Room Naming in Renovated Library - Staff and Building Committee are looking at what we will call service points so that patrons can intuitively understand where to go. Ginny also brought forward the question about naming opportunities for donors, and if this committee would be willing to draft some criteria/policy for examining how we name spaces (e.g., who they are named after). Walter noted the importance of elevator signage at various points around the building. Raphael: the role of the Trustees is to consider naming criteria, more than JEDI and Library staff. Melissa suggested appealing to donors who might be interested in providing funding to name a space on behalf of someone we want to honor (e.g., “The Angela Davis Reading Room, a gift of the Cabana Family”). Mia is curious about the permanency of a name on a room and Ginny was able to share that there is already language in place with the list of available spaces for naming that explains how the spaces and names may evolve over time.
VI. An additional item added to agenda: Library programming during renovation/expansion project - Mia brought up the logistics of hosting programs when the Library is in its temporary location. How can we find locations and partners around town that will allow Library staff to plan and deliver programs? There are limitations in our prospective temporary space. It is also noteworthy that the meeting spaces in our Branch locations are public/town scheduled spaces (e.g., the Hall at Munson Memorial, the new meeting room at North Amherst) and Library programs don’t have priority use of these spaces. We are also exploring working with the schools/Amherst Recreation/the BID/and other organizations such as the Amherst College museums and St. Brigid’s social hall. We have investigated using the Bangs Center, and Farah suggests also exploring community meeting spaces at Town Hall. We will also employ the strategy of offering virtual programs, but this works better for adult programs.

VII. Adjourn at 12:30pm

VIII. Next meeting: Friday, April 26, 2024; 12:30pm; Zoom