Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order at 12:33pm

II. Minutes 4-14-23 approved

III. Discussion of Patron Behavior Policy:
   A. Ginny recommended changing accessibility of language in the policy; suggested program called Hemingway for adjusting our drafted language.
   B. Farah asked about “unsafe or disruptive behavior,” and who is called when an interaction reaches that point. Also asked about “insufficient clothing” and “weapon” language for clarification.
   C. Raphael suggested the spirit of this policy can be enhanced by acknowledging that conflict is possible, offered to send examples of language.
   D. Walter suggested including brief examples alongside general concept.
   E. Mia explained the previous version of this policy was called Patron Rights and Responsibilities. Staff discussed the loss of the “rights” aspect of the previous version in our efforts to streamline. Looking to create a policy that staff at all levels of responsibility can refer patrons to.
   F. Sharon asked if an appendix with definitions of terms be useful due to subjectivity of language.
   G. Farah said this policy is a first step that needs to be finalized so we have an updated policy in place. The next step can be working on Patron Bill of Rights document, and they can exist in tandem.
   H. Suggested next steps: staff will revise language incorporating feedback from this committee meeting, then proceed to PPP committee.

IV. Discussion of Public Survey:
   A. Ginny asked if gender and other self-identified categories should be included?
   B. Walter asked if demographic questions would be separate from belonging questions? For example, “Do you identify as a person with a disability? If so, share some additional information: physical disability, neurodivergence…”
   C. Farah: Demographics questions as a baseline are important for survey.
   D. Ginny was in agreement with Walter. When a survey includes more specificity around identity, she is more willing/likely to fill it out. One question yes/no, a follow up question that is open ended is welcoming, not invasive.
E. Raphael: do we want to focus on belonging, and how are we going to move to the next step/plan for distributing survey and getting feedback?
F. Committee agreed to only ask four questions; the demographics questions can come later.
G. Ginny mentioned Amherst Block Party to be held on September 21st as a target to get survey out to the public.
H. Ginny will run policy through Hemingway program by 8/20/23 and will share with Mia. Mia will organize staff meeting for revisions of policy.

V. Adjourn

Next meeting: Friday, September 15, 2023; 1:30pm; Zoom