

I. Call to Order

Members Present: Lauren Read, Dana Visser, Prudence Doherty, Jess Wignall, Amanda Goldstein, Colleen McCormick Moore

City Staff Present: Nate Eddy, Ravi Venkataraman

Guests Present: n/a

Call to Order by: Motion - Jess

Meeting Start Time: 6:35 pm

Minutes Recorded by: Lauren Read

II. Public Comment

N/A

III. Committee Member Updates

Jess - attended book sale at the farmers market, looked busy.

IV. Library Updates

Fundraising continues to be challenging for the renovation, Ray and Nate met with CHT and they are struggling, two other Chittenden County libraries are actively fundraising, running into issues. There will be some grant funding available, library is waiting to see if they can apply on behalf of this project. At the end of the month, Eileen and Nate will attend a capital campaign committee, fundraising ideas. Nate would like to do more outreach to more of the Winooski community. Architects have finalized design plans, looking at furniture, so there could be an opportunity for another open house to raise awareness.

New partnership with Mill Museum has been a success.

Programming:

- On August 5, we partnered with Old Spokes Home and their Mobile Repair Unit to host a free bike repair clinic. Over 10 bikes were serviced and Old Spokes reported it was their busiest repair program of the summer.
- Also on August 5, we partnered with the Lake Champlain Basin Program to host a gyotaku fish print program for youth.
- Our end of summer reading party was held on August 19 with nearly 70 folks in attendance. Big thanks to Cookie Love and Sister's of Anarchy for donating cookies and ice cream!
- On August 20, Kirsten offered a storytime at the Mill Museum for the opening of their children's Discovery Nook – 38 in attendance.

Statistics:

- Although physical circulation was slightly down from July, our e-circ and door count were both higher from the previous month.
 - Circulation: 1263 (August) vs. 1600 (July)
 - Door count: 1077 (August) vs. 1022 (July)
 - E-circ: 1025 (August) vs. 998 (July)
- 43 new library card registrations (August) vs. 49 (July)

Friends of the Winooski Library:

- The Friends held a book sale at the Winooski Farmer's Market on August 23. Despite the iffy weather, the group raised ~\$250 and are tentatively planning for another sale in October.

General:

- On August 26, Ray and Nate met with CHT for a project update. Fundraising remains challenging and it is increasingly likely that any construction on the new space will not happen in 2026. While CHT remains committed to the project and has completed construction planning, we are unable to move forward until the funding gap has been met. Later this month, Nate will join the capital campaign meeting and is hopeful to have more updates following.
- Kirsten was awarded registration reimbursement by the VT Department of Libraries to attend this year's New England Library Association Conference being held in Burlington October 25 – 27!

The published data for the 2025 Public Library Annual Report is now available on the Department of Libraries Annual Report Data page for those who would like to take a deeper dive.

V. FY27 Goal Setting

FY2026 Goals - 1. Attend at least 2 events to promote library; 2. Get the Friends up and running; 3. Communicate, promote move of the Library. We consider all three goals accomplished.

Looking to FY27 - comfortable with 3 goals.

1. Stay aware of capital campaign and promote fundraising efforts - both to raise money and raise awareness
 - a. Guidance from capital campaign committee on efforts and ideas to determine next steps
2. Collect information about what may be causing barriers to accessing the new library location from the west side of the City.
3. Table at least three events for information collection, raising awareness, and staying connected with Friends

Nate to type up goals and we will review and approve at next meeting.

VI. Comprehensive Plan: Safe, Healthy, Connected People

Ravi Venkataraman attended to present the 2027 Comprehensive Plan update.

Master Plan has to be reviewed and updated every 8 years.

Five pillars of plan update - the one we are looking at is Safe, Healthy, Connected People

Open houses have been held throughout the summer, and we are still taking public comment and feedback

Goal #1 - First question: Accredited institutions in Winooski, wording of Action #5 around providing education as an essential service. Second question: How the City can ensure the community can access affordable childcare. Indirect assistance from the City in helping childcare get started, but can't provide direct help. Can help identify a barrier. Third question: Where elder care fits in the larger plan. Fourth point: Organization of action items seemed to make it difficult to think through, may make sense to reorganize so it flows better.

Goal #2 - One point: literacy should be added, literacy is a social determinant of health. Second point: Add a housing reference. Third point: Talk about recreation component, active recreation to add to this goal or another?

Ravi question - is there any specific language that could be used for grants, funding? Nate will think on it.

Goal #3 - First point: Action #5, the city has done a lot of work there, does it still need to be there? Second point: More information on Action #8 requested; could the language be clearer? Can we use CCRP language? Third point: Maintain language vs. action item language?

Goal #4 - First point: Collected comments on this section, asked for more feedback. Second point - on Action #2, there is a plan going forward for facility improvement, there should be more about resources for programming, staffing, etc. Expand this beyond the facility. Third point: Is there something more concrete to strengthen social networks for the library? Book bike was brought up as an example. Third point: Removing barriers for allowing community events to happen, easier to approve, Downtown Winooski, cost

Goal #5 - First point: How will the city work to improve transportation? Ravi - housing improvements, CarShare partnership, Bike Share, partnerships. Second point: GMT messaging could be improved. Third point: Action #4, should language be added about O'Brien Community Center being upgraded/renovated. With the City no longer owning the space, should we reword this to emphasize encouraging public use of space. Should Senior Center be included in this? Fourth point: Is this the area to add crossing Mallets Bay/Main Street, is it somewhere else? Fifth point: question about this helping with building plans, etc.

Next steps: this will continue to be reviewed, more comment will be welcomed.

VII. Other Business

No other business recorded.

VIII. Adjourn

Motion by: Jess

Second: Colleen

Meeting End Time: 7:48 pm