

Book 28 Library

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 15/02/21

Present: Rebecca Franklin, Isadore Auerbach George, Darelle Bridges, Vik K-F, Michael Elias

Next Meeting: 1/03/21

18:00

1. Announcements

- Got 42% funded, huge thanks to Mukund for a very generous donation, we have met the target we budgeted for in combination with our Lush grant so anything else is a bonus

2. Agenda

- What Zoom account we are using for the Polari Talk and Dressing Dykes events this week?
- Contacting other LGBTQIA+ libraries in the UK as Isadore mentioned in the past to meet with them post HM
- Discuss a desired timeline and our goals for post HM and the fundraising campaign
- Foundation Stones offer
- Screening Ed Webbinghall film
- Impact framework / stakeholder document

3. Discussion and Actions taken

Rebecca asks should we add the Lush fund to our whatsit? It might show we are competent in raising moneys for a project. Dore says no, lets us into weird territory, because we are trying to be transparent with our accounts, but we are looking to avoid very publicly thanking Lush because they have donated to conflicted causes recently and it would reflect badly on our brand / potentially raise more problems than it would solve. Rebecca initially said we should. Dore highlighted that getting half funded (+ whatever else we get) shows we can set good targets already.

Dore can log into the zoom for the Polari and Dressing Dykes talks

Michael raised organizing with other libraries / related groups. Rebecca suggested that this was put off for the moment. Dore and Michael highlighted that February is short and people are busy so we might want to talk sooner rather than later. Dore wants to talk to Outhouse librarian/any of the team, Gender Library, Small Trans Library Dublin / Scotland, Stef Dickers from Bishopsgate Institute, and the Queer Zine Library. Dore says we are emailing saying, in short, "We all work in the same area, what can we do to help each other, what can we learn, how can we help each other" ect. Important to clarify that we are approaching Small Trans Library Dublin and Outhouse from the stance that they are not American and have a *more* similar experience to ours, not because we think they are in the UK. Michael to email them saying we would like to meet in March.

Michael raised that we should consider post LGBT History Month timeline. All considered our priorities post-HM. Dore says first up is Outside Project need to be out of their current building by the end of March. They put in an offer somewhere today, this week, we will find details but its difficult to work out our next steps in the meantime. This basically hampers our plans, we might want to think about furniture, shelves, setting up the space. We can buy the new books after the fundraiser; Dore suggests a collections development taskforce. Prior to this Dore needs to post his full dissertation on our website. All parties to read it and consider the collections development policy.

Dore said for RE: getting free laptops for The Outside Project, we ought to set up a document to make it easy as possible for Jesse. Dore to set up the document, then Dore, Vik and Rebecca to contribute a bit of research to it.

Michael said we might want to talk to Cipher press, as they have an open submission call and its relevant for our audience. Michael will email Cipher to work something out.

Rebecca says we have got volunteers champing at the bit.

Dore proposes a budget meeting once we close the fundraiser, as part of that we need to think about how we can turn our current money into more, I think a separate finance meeting would be good,

Dore proposed a plan to consult, starting with a free PDF, start scaling, make products, this will involve networking and market research (how much would people pay ect.). Dore is going to speak at a conference on his research in queer librarianship in May, so this would be a good opportunity plug this. Dore asks how can we make more money? He clarified that we don't want to compromise our core library service by making any of it paid, so our paid content has to be 'extras'. He suggested consulting for this reason and merch too. Darrelle suggested that university libraries might be interested in collaborating with us/having us consult. Dore suggested that students unions might be interested too.

Dore raised Foundation stones offer – it is quite confusing. What is the commitment we are making? It is a holocaust memorial specifically remembering LGBT victims. Michael says we should ask them to clarify what the offer is, Dore says the event is on the 28th. Rebecca to email to clarify.

Rebecca raised Ed Webbinghall offer. Dore says this sounds good - we should work out screening that film as an event in March. We are happy to do that, we can provide a Zoom meeting, what does he need from us? Shall we name a date? Rebecca to message.

Rebecca mentioned we should come up with an impact framework/stakeholder document. Impact framework is a set of questions that look to work out who we are working for, what impact we are aiming to make, how to measure that, and then analysis of that impact and creation of a story around the impact we have made. A stakeholder document would identify more formally who Book 28 Library is looking to work for and who are the invested parties. Dore says Michael and Rebecca should work on producing these documents. Dore says we should try and capture metrics and analytics, everyone can count so metrics are easy, but analytics are going a bit further. He gave the example of footfall, which is often counted in libraries but fails to account for the impact of each library user or the significance of a person entering the library. A footfall count might count a library manager entering and leaving a few times a day for coffee and might fail to capture the significance of a library for the few most vulnerable users who consistently rely on the service. For example, our events are sometimes low attendance high impact, given that we often focus on groups which research identifies as needing the most support/intervention/services. It is difficult to do cost/benefit analysis at free-at-the-point-of-access events. Dore says there are techniques to analyze our impact. He says to match with marginalized groups data (e.g. stonewall stuff) e.g. if 7 people came to our disability event, but we can prove that we had a big impact we've met a clear goal. Dore also says be wary of GDPR, because collecting and storing sensitive data can breach GDPR. There are lots of guides online.

Rebecca raised volunteers. All considered what we want as a vetting process because as the potential for sensitive documents in the drive increases, the more possibility for harm / benefit from partial access for new volunteers. Michael suggests an interview, Dore suggests doing due diligence by giving people a google. Dore also suggested referees.

Rebecca clarified stakeholder document. We want more oversight from the communities we serve and invested parties in the same area, because as a (wannabe CIC) we have less taxman and democratic oversight baked into our organizational structure. As such we want more communities which are required to look at what we do, provide feedback, let us know when we are not helping and what we could do to help more effectively. Dore says we might want to invite stakeholders to our AGMs.

Dore asked how everyone felt their volunteer load was – Michael said things would be sufficient after they had got underway with the impact structure work. Rebecca said that after HM she would have to refocus on project management/invoicing stuff, given that we have the tax year coming and we want a proposed budget and CIC status.

4. Actions to do

Rebecca to send an email clarifying the Foundation Stone offer.

Rebecca to send blogpost to Future Startup Now.

Rebecca to confirm our rates and check if everyone is cool with it, talk to Dore to confirm / put on website.

Rebecca to contact Ed Webbinghall to fix date and ask what he needs from us for screening.

Dore to set up a Google Doc for Vik, Dore, and Rebecca's research on how to get free laptops for The Outside Project.

Vik, Dore + Rebecca to contribute some research to that document.

Dore to publish his dissertation on the website this week.

Michael to email Cipher press.

Michael to email Book 28 adjacent organizations as detailed above to propose and organise a meeting

Dore to send Rebecca and Michael some library management research which can help with impact structure, lots of free articles on google scholar on 'evaluating library impact'.

Rebecca and Michael to meet and discuss impact framework

All to consider what we want as a vetting process.

All look at the collections development policy so we can discuss it next time.

Signed and Distributed



18/02/21

Rebecca Franklin