

Makerspace Regroup - Minutes

January 14, 2021

7:00p

Attendance: Gretchen DelCegno, Bonnie-Marie Jenkins, Jere Wilson, Mark Malley

Meeting began at 7:00pm

Library is open by appointment, with curbside pickup. We have not received word of a spending freeze, though we continue to work with most of our part-time staff furloughed. Over the summer we held Ozobot sandbox programs, where individuals' households signed up for an hour-long session. They were given quick instructions from library staff on how the Ozobots "worked", shown the supplies, and then given free rein to play, explore, and learn. I anticipate that we can continue this type of programming as long as the Library building is open to the public.

There was discussion about the ideal timeline for the Makerspace launch, and whether it would be better to postpone the launch until we KNOW we can welcome groups back into the library. Ultimately it was decided to move forward with planning so that we can have an unveiling mid-year – whether it is a "soft launch" with limited in-house activities, or a "grand opening".

Shifting focus, we discussed funding and the opportunities for getting donations and sponsorship for some of the library equipment. We identified that determining our equipment needs was our next step and that knowing what we wanted would help us know what we needed in terms of funding. The Library has \$2,000 on hand for Makerspace supplies.

Publicity for the Naming Contest will proceed. The due date for submissions will be March 31, 2021. This will give us time to take the winning entry and commission a permanent sign for the Makerspace.

Our next meetings will be used to review pre-seeded lists of equipment/tools/materials and prioritizing purchases. We'll "package" some purchases in a way that makes sense to facilitate grant requests.

We'll start meeting more regularly going forward. Our next meeting will be February 4 and we'll meet every other Thursday night at 7pm.

Gretchen asked for help spreading the word about the Makerspace Survey. The response rate has been mediocre, and the more responses we get, the better the data is. Please share the link, encourage your friends, family and co-workers to fill it out, and if you're part of a community organizations, please share the information with the members.

Meeting ended at 7:42pm