

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Minutes of Joint Meeting with Auburn Public Library Board

January 19, 2012

APL Board: Dick Trafton, Chair; Kirk Egge, Ed Cormier, Sonia Buck, Pat Gautier, Liz Henry, Connie Bedette, Bill Low

LPL Board: Art Turley, Chair; Phil Isaacson, Jennifer GendronCarlton, Judy Head, Judy Gervais, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Lynn Lockwood, Jake Paris, David Moorhead, Marty Gagnon, Deb Cleveland

Art Turley called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The minutes of the Joint Meeting held at APL on January 19, 2011, were approved.

Sunday hours were discussed. Although there is no pressure from local residents to open the libraries on Sunday, that feature has proved popular in other Maine communities, such as Brunswick and Camden. On the other hand, budgetary considerations in Lewiston and Auburn and current union contracts in Lewiston seem to be problematic at this time.

Jake Paris described a new joint website – LibraryLA.org – that he and his counterpart at APL, Suzanne Sullivan, have developed. This site focuses more on the digital services than the physical services that are provided by APL and LPL. The site is linked to the existing websites of both libraries. The cost is only \$10 per year. It is felt that in this digital age, when fewer library cards are being issued than in the past, such a website can compensate, such that utilization of services will not decrease and may in fact increase. A motion was made and seconded that the current efforts to develop LibraryLA.org be continued and promoted. The Motion passed unanimously.

A 24-hour reference service was proposed to be made available via the library websites (including LibraryLA.org). This service would feature an online chat capability, such that the “customer” can communicate with a reference librarian in real time at all times. This service costs \$150 per year. Perhaps this can be a single charge for APL and LPL through LibraryLA. A motion was made and seconded to move forward on this project and this was passed unanimously.

Discussion ensued about film programs, using book groups as models. Mention was made of connecting this to LAFF (LA film festival). Marty Gagnon, Sonia Buck, and Connie Bedette of APL and Jennifer GendronCarlton, Art Turley, and a to-be-named staff person from LPL will explore this idea and report back to both boards.

We then discussed the promotion and marketing of preschool reading - the reading of books to preschoolers by their parents. The Ready Read program already has a jingle that proclaims "20 minutes a day, ready for K." Local organizations such as Head Start and Advocates for Children are fully invested in this notion. It was suggested that posters be placed in the offices of pediatricians and both local hospitals, perhaps in conjunction with the CMMC and SMRMC librarians. Staff members at APL and LPL are already working on this matter and will keep the boards posted.

We agreed to meet together next year at the Auburn Public Library, date yet to be determined. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Z Walworth
Secretary *pro tem*