

Lewiston Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
Meeting Minutes

November 9, 2010

Members present: Judy Head, Chair; Judy Gervais, Phil Isaacson, Sarah Potter, Art Turley, Jennifer GendronCarleton, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Director LPL; Pat Gautier, member APL board

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM. Sarah Potter had attended the recent APL board meeting and commented how similar the issues and problems were on both sides of the river.

The Minutes of the October 14 minutes were approved unanimously.

Art Turley and Rick Speer discussed the November 5 gathering of librarians from all over the state. The keynote speaker was a librarian from New Jersey; she discussed advocacy and what had been done in her state. A lot of preliminary planning, with written talking points, went into crafting a positive message. Personal stories backed up each point. Advocates were recruited as “champions” for libraries; celebrities, billboards, and ordinary library patrons were all used to promote library activities and initiatives and budgets at the state and local level. Further information is available on the Maine State Library website.

Rick Speer presented the Director’s Report. The Friends of LPL have purchased four eReaders (Amazon Kindle, Sony Pocket, Sony Touch, and B&N Nook). They will soon be available for loan to adult patrons; the release will be coordinated with APL. The MY FIRST LIBRARY CARD program began last week. November is Friends of LPL Month; the Friends hope to increase membership by 50%. On October 30, over 100 members of the Somali community attended the Somali Youth Empowerment Forum in Callahan Hall. Mr. Speer mentioned also that the replacement of outdated public computer equipment throughout the Library would soon be completed. Local legislators have been invited to a continental breakfast at the library on November 15 for an informational update and a chance to meet the State Librarian; Board members were encouraged to attend as well. It was noted that although “door traffic” was steady in October, circulation numbers were down in several categories. The Director’s Report was approved unanimously.

Mr. Speer then reviewed the FY2012 Objectives; there were 18 items among nine categories. Without going over each individual item, suffice it to say that several focused on the electronic/web/eReader realm and others dwelt on community involvement and outreach and – as always – parking. After consideration of each, the Objectives were approved for adoption unanimously.

A Nominating Committee, consisting of Judy Gervais and Anne Kemper, was appointed to bring forth a slate for Board Chairman and Secretary.

Under new business, Art Turley mentioned that there had been a suggestion that for various reasons, the Library website become part of the City's web page. The Board tended to favor continuing the current status.

Ted Walworth said he would be happy to attend the next meeting of the APL Board, pending determination of the date. Sometime in the next few months there will a joint meeting of the LPL and APL Boards.

The next meeting of the LPL Board will be at 5:30 PM on Thursday, December 9.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Walworth  
Secretary *Pro-tem*