

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes

December 9, 2010

Members present: Judy Head, Chair: Anne Kemper, Margaret Craven, Art Turley, Sarah Potter, Judy Gervais, Jennifer GendronCarleton, Phil Isaacson, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Director LPL; Ellen Gilliam, Deputy Director; Molly Ladd, Teen VISTA Coordinator; Jane Brodsky, member APL board

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The Minutes of the November 9 meeting were approved.

Ellen Gilliam and Molly Ladd described the programs for Teens at the library. Ellen stated that when St Dom's HS moved out of downtown Lewiston in 2002, the usage of the library by teenagers fell off considerably, but with the Somali immigration those numbers increased steadily and many students would congregate in the library after school. Since 2006, various steps have been taken to cope with the situation, including the hiring of a building monitor. Pro-active teen programs began and have culminated with the involvement of Molly, Bates College '09. She is a VISTA volunteer who came on board this past August and will serve until August, 2011. What may have been a "teen problem" is now a success story, to the extent that it is felt that there is need for a dedicated "teen librarian," in other words a staff librarian dedicated to the population of teenage students and readers. This group will only get larger over time and it represents the future of library users.

There followed discussion of teen exchange and service projects, such as Operation Breaking Stereotypes, a Somali Youth Empowerment Forum, and so forth. It was obvious that LPL will need a "go to" person for teens once Molly's service is completed. VISTA will not be funding the position again.

Rick Speer began the Director's Report by mentioning two recent library visits by City Councilors; a few more visits are anticipated and trustee participation is encouraged. The Friends of LPL have had a successful campaign lately in terms of membership contributions and recruitment of new members.

Rick discussed the results of the questionnaire distributed by the Friends. Library patrons were disappointed by the shrinkage of hours, but overall were understanding. Perhaps the facility could open earlier on Saturdays.

The City is proceeding with the revamping of its website. The guidelines of the LPL site may change, but the format and domain name will remain the same. It was suggested that a City representative be invited to the February meeting to explore this issue further.

The Director's report was accepted by all those present.

Major budget initiatives for FY2012 were then discussed, keeping current fiscal restraints in mind. It was felt that there should be some restoration of the materials budget and an effort made to train and employ a “teen coordinator.” Given the constraints, there should be an effort to retrain current staff in regard to that role. These considerations were moved, seconded, and passed.

A list of holiday closings for 2011 was distributed and accepted.

Next month’s meeting will be held jointly at APL on January 19 at 7:30 AM. The two chairs will confer regarding the agenda.

The Nominating Committee (Judy Gervais and Anne Kemper) made its report. Art Turley was proposed as Chair and Ted Walworth as Secretary. The slate was moved, seconded, and passed, with Turley and Walworth abstaining.

Sarah Potter will be leaving the board and was thanked for her years of service. Judy Head was thanked for serving as Chair; she will remain on the board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM.