

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2011

Members present: Art Turley, Chair; Anne Kemper, Margaret Craven, Judy Gervais, Jennifer GendronCarleton, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Director LPL; Karen Jones, Technical Services Librarian

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. The minutes of the December 9, 2010 meeting were approved. The minutes of the joint LPL/APL meeting held at APL on January 19, 2011, were approved.

Karen Jones gave a report from Technical Services and noted the decrease (as anticipated) in the acquisition of new books; deletions were about the same. She mentioned that there were still many VHS tapes in the library and that they continued to circulate. The Friends of LPL have a new arrangement with a patron/bookseller where he uses his Amazon.com business to sale used books which have been donated to the Friends and returns 60% of the income to the Friends. During the first 10 weeks of this agreement, the Friends received over \$1,000 from these sales alone. She displayed a new book from a Technical/Scientific series and noted that each volume had an eBook equivalent. She was thanked for her report.

Mr. Speer began his report by noting that City Councilor Steve Morgan had recently toured the library. We anticipate visits by the three other councilors and the mayor in the next few months. Rick has joined the city's Web Site Steering Committee, through which the LPL site will be updated. He described a "Read Down Your Fees" policy for children, who earn "Library Bucks" via supervised reading in the library. Digital music downloads will be available in March through the "Freegal.com" web service. He listed upcoming public events at LPL, including authors' talks and the first L-A Film Festival. Discussion ensued about the use of library meeting rooms by community groups. To this point, no single group has been permitted to establish a regular schedule for its gatherings. The Board proposed, seconded, and approved a Motion to change the reservation policy, allowing groups to set up a consistent monthly schedule for a trial period of six months. A public announcement will be made about this change and the new policy will be reviewed in September.

The 2012 Fiscal Year requests for the library catalog, building, administration, and circulation were reviewed. The monthly reports for December and January were reviewed. It was noted that there was a request for a 12% increase in the book budget. New (replacement) computers are due to be installed soon in the computer lab through the State Library's BTOP grant. A video conference center is also in the works through this grant.

The Chair gave a midyear evaluation of the FY2011 Objectives. Several were in progress, some were completed, and it was acknowledged that for a variety of reasons, some would not be achieved.

One of the items discussed at the joint APL-LPL meeting in January had been the establishment of a joint working group in hopes of coordinating hours of operation and the possibility of opening for a few hours on Sundays. Anne Kemper and Jennifer GendronCarleton volunteered to join Art Turley on this group.

Ted Walworth noted the absence of items related to LPL in the weekly electronic newsletter sent out by the Androscoggin Chamber of Commerce (in contrast to the newsletter listings of activities at APL). By virtue of being a branch of the City of Lewiston, LPL is in effect a member of the Chamber. Further discussion ensued about the Chamber, YPLAA Culture Crawls, and other ways to involve LPL with activities along Lisbon Street.

The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, March 10.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Walworth
Secretary