

Lewiston Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes

March 10, 2011

Members present: Art Turley, Chair; Anne Kemper, Jennifer GendronCarlton, Phil Isaacson, John Painter, Judy Head, Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer, Director of LPL; Hugh Judge, VP, R. M. Davis, Inc.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. John Painter was welcomed as a new member of the Board.

Mr. Judge then gave the semiannual report on the status of the Library's endowment fund, providing each member of the Board with a brochure that presented data from year 2000 to the present. This included a survey of national and international economic growth, inflation, interest rates, corporate profits, and stock market returns. He reviewed the history of the library's portfolio and the list of current investments. We discussed the 70/30 mix of equities versus fixed-income investments and the potential benefits of selling some stocks to achieve – at least temporarily – a more conservative 60/40 distribution. Mr. Judge was thanked for his presentation.

The February minutes were approved.

Mr. Speer gave the Director's report, beginning with the news that the Deputy Director and chief reference librarian at LPL, Ellen Gilliam, had submitted her resignation, effective March 31. She will become the manager of the Burbank Branch of the Portland Public Library. It is our understanding that the position will be "frozen" for the time being. Members of the Board voiced regret at this development and felt that the vital position should certainly not be eliminated; perhaps it could be fused in some way with the position of Teen Coordinator, another important position that will be empty come August.

Mr. Speer discussed several upcoming events at LPL, beginning with the appearance on the evening of March 30 of Jacques d'Amboise, who will discuss his recent book "I Was a Dancer." He will also be visiting the Bates College campus. A local author, Elliott Epstein, will discuss his book "Lucifer's Child" on March 22. The Great Falls Forum on March 17 will feature the story of the revitalization of Lowell, Mass, which like Lewiston, has many old mills and a canal system. Lastly, Callahan Hall in the Library will be one of the venues for the daylong Lewiston-Auburn Film Festival on April 2.

Mr. Speer reported that some subtle damage, namely a couple of pencil markings, had been detected on the painting by William Manning, which hangs near the entrance to Callahan Hall. Bill Low, of the Bates College Art Museum, will be asked to assess the situation. Perhaps the work should be moved to another position.

The city budget will be discussed in a workshop at the Lewiston City Hall on Tuesday, April 12 at 6 PM. Board members were encouraged to attend. The Director's report was accepted.

The Chair noted that no one from APL was present at the February or March LPL Board meeting. He planned to contact his counterpart about this. In the meantime, Judy head agreed to attend the April 20 meeting at APL and Jennifer GendronCarlton agreed to attend the June 15 meeting. The Joint Working Group (regarding potential Sunday hours and other matters) has been constituted on both sides of the river; the date of its first meeting is being determined.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM. The next meeting is scheduled on Thursday, April 14.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Walworth
Secretary