

LPL Board of Library Trustees
Meeting Minutes
January 7, 2016

Board members present: Jennifer Gendron Carleton, Elizabeth Clifford, Darby Ray, Anne Kemper, Noel Madore, John Painter, and Ted Walworth

Others present: Rick Speer and Susan Weiss, APL Board of Trustees

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Jennifer Gendron Carleton. The meeting minutes from 12/3/15 were approved as distributed.

Because no quorum existed at the 12/3/15 meeting, the Board reviewed and subsequently approved each of the following resolutions from that meeting:

- proposed holiday closings for 2016
- acceptance of Carignan and ALA grants
- submission of United Way grant to support after-school program
- slate of officers for 2016 (Jennifer Gendron Carleton as Chair and Darby Ray as Secretary)

Ted requested an update on the discussion about potentially aligning LPL and APL staffing structures and other procedures. Rick reported that while no progress has been made on the issue, interested Board members may press for its continued consideration at the next joint Board meeting.

Rick presented the Director's report.

- Anne Kemper and ZamZam Mohamud have been reappointed to the Board. Board members are encouraged to promote the last vacant seat to their networks.
- Will hire an exterminator to address a minor mouse problem in the building.
- Staff have been reminded that according to the by-laws, they can send a representative to Board meetings.
- Discussion: Some patrons are bringing a lot of bags into the library, causing security and aesthetic concerns. Rick will explore the possibility of emulating the Portland library's policy of limiting the number and size of bags.
- Rick will send out by email the APL Board meeting schedule for 2016 so LPL Board members can sign up to attend. If a conflict arises, please contact Jennifer, who is willing to be a substitute so that LPL is always represented at APL meetings.
- Rick reminded the Board about upcoming programs.

Discussion of library security situation.

- Recent increases in behavior incidents and police calls; staff concerns about feeling unsafe at work; major incident on 12/19/15
- Have added a building monitor on Saturday afternoons.

- A meeting with City administration and LPD confirmed the seriousness of the problem and underscored the need for enhanced security support for library staff. Agreed to reach out to other social service agencies to try to understand and address the problem; to consider budget options for a Security presence every afternoon and for increased video surveillance cameras; to train full time staff to recognize and address problem behaviors; and to move baggage limitation initiative forward.

Reviewed FY 2016 Objectives

- Making good progress on Objectives despite some funding constraints
- Re: the “welcome center” objective: Recommend a conversation with Friends of LPL to gauge their interest in taking the lead.
- Successfully met objective re: improved wifi, but as a result, people now congregate outside the building to take advantage of the free wifi. Discussion -- Turn wifi off when library is closed? Not resolved.
- Danielle, the new Teen Librarian, is doing great work with teen programming.

Anne suggested a reading glasses borrowing program. Will pursue the possibility of Friends taking the lead.

APL report:

- NASA exhibit coming up, April 13 - July 8
- Will host a Maine Humanities Council-sponsored series on political cartoons
- Adopted a staff cell phone policy

The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 pm.