

LPL Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2016

Board members present: Jennifer Gendron Carleton, Elizabeth Clifford, Anne Kemper, Noel Madore, ZamZam Mohamud, Darby Ray, Sarah Yasin

Others present: Rick Speer, Marcela Peres, and Dave Murphy (APL)

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm by Chairperson Jennifer Gendron Carleton.

Adult & Teen Services librarian Marcela Peres reported on her department, including:

- Addition of “Teen” to the department title
- New program with APL entitled “Self-e” – a self-publishing program that still involves a degree of oversight/review; published as e-books; features both national and Maine sections; Brunswick and Portland libraries are also participating.
- New STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) focus in programming includes 3-D printers and a desire to make the library a source of entry-level knowledge about 3-D printers; also looking at various kits and activities for teens (e.g., electronics). Kids are teaching each other, which is nice to see.
- Exploring the possibility of converting the old archive reading room into a maker space.
- Homework Help after-school program is going well; this semester, includes an “aspirations” program series that serves 12-15 youth each time.
- Challenge: Limited number of computers for public use. According to an Edge assessment, we are 11 computers short of where we should be. In addition, we still have some computers on Windows XP, which is no longer supported, so need upgrades to Windows 10.
- Wifi connectivity is greatly improved these days.
- Three F/T staff members – Danielle Fortin, Ruby Jones, and Marcela Peres – have been doing impressive professional development. Helps put LPL on the map, especially in Maine, but is a challenge to juggle with the regular workload.
- Challenge: This department is pretty severely understaffed, forcing F/T staff to do more front line work than is ideal and cutting into their ability to do other kinds of work. On average, these staff members get only 5 hours/week away from the reference desk. Also, because need two people to staff the desk at any given time, huge areas of the floor must be left without staff presence/eyes. Staff are committed, collaborative, and enthusiastic, but the stresses are real and take a toll in terms of morale.

The meeting minutes from March 3, 2016 were unanimously approved as distributed.

Rick presented the Director’s Report, which was unanimously approved:

- Planting a seed re: the Hartley Cultural Center, which is basically indistinguishable from the rest of the first floor (since the library renovation). Our cultural events take place in Callahan Hall;

perhaps it should be renamed the Hartley Center. . . ? Rick will discuss the dilemma with Larry Raymond, who is the last real connection to Callahan.

- Internet policy issue: There is a new ruling that could make full, unrestricted access to the internet much more expensive (\$5,700/year instead of \$300/year). To avoid the increase, we would have to impose some level of filter to remain compliant with the Children's Internet Protection Act. We would want the least obtrusive filter. APL has a filter, and it seems to work well for them. Staff can manually override the filter upon request; can also whitelist specific web sites that the filter excludes. We would have to hold an advertised public meeting to change our policy. A motion to advertise and hold said meeting was proposed and approved by unanimous vote.

Discussion of proposed library budget, which includes \$30,000 for the book budget. The budget was sent to the City Manager, and for the first time he did not impose any cuts. Board members encouraged to attend the City Council budget review on April 12 and to advocate on behalf of the library's value as a community/cultural center (not simply a book lending institution).

Review, discussion, and approval of the proposed objectives for FY 2017, which were developed this year, at the behest of the Board, by library staff.

The annual joint LPL/APL meeting will likely take place in May. Please stay tuned.

Update on last APL meeting. Suggestion from Dave Murphy that board meeting materials be routinely shared with the full board of each library.

Old business: Jenn will once again ask the mayor about the parking validation issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Next LPL Board meeting: May 5, 5:30 pm