Library Trustees Minutes

February 13, 2025

Present: Ed Barrett (II:‘24-‘27), Tu Biederman (I:’23-’26), Karen Choate (II:’25-’28), ~~Julie Colangelo~~ (I:’23-’26), ~~Marissa Deku~~ (II:’24-’27), Melanie Dorn (I:’24-’27), Mariah Pfeiffer (III:’25-’28), Strawberry Pinkham (II:’25-’28), Carl Sheline.

1. Approval of minutes - minutes were accepted as presented - VOTED - PASSED
2. Welcome Melanie
3. Collection Services Department Report - Beth Almquist: update on the work of the department which included -- **intake/cataloguing** - 100 items/wk.; **reprocessing** (fixing, recoding, retagging) 10,000 items in 2024; inventory **weeding and rebuilding** the “essential titles”; picking up tasks of departments which were understaffed; **disaster prep** - making a plan for “saving” the collection from burst pipes, natural disaster, fire etc.; **archives** - requires specific skills necessary but Bates is assisting and workshops are available. New items - Wowbrary - online; Playaways - self-contained single book used with headset. How can board support? 🡺 digital expansion - more $ to e.g. Cloud Library; an archivist to preserve the collection.
4. APL Board Report - Karen Choate - they are working on board member applications and training, fundraising, and working through issues with the unhoused.
5. Nominating Committee Report -
   1. Moved to elect Tu Biederman as chair -- VOTED - PASSED unanimously
   2. Moved to elect Karen Choate as secretary -- VOTED - PASSED unanimously
6. Campaign Committee Report - Strawberry updated on
   1. **event APRIL 26** Murder Mystery dinner $75/person - food, fun - next planning session Feb 18 on zoom.
   2. Ed updated on activities - campaign coordinator (Alyssa) connecting with Nate Libby from city to gather community info and then meeting with banks; lots of grant writing right now.
7. Director’s Report
   1. Federal spending pause - less worrisome for LPL than for city but we don’t have too much tied to Federal funding
   2. FY2026 Library budget - it will be a tough budget year - budget hearing March 10 - please come if available - our primary requests
      1. HVAC system
      2. Security camera(s) for the courtyard and gate for stairs off Pine St
      3. Children’s librarian position will go unfilled
      4. Re-categorizing current employee to new position pay rate different
      5. Finance committee has pledged to keep the security company at LPL until 2030!!
8. Old Business - with the winter weather security needs have increased but staff morale is still good. Joey may request that Public Works remove the benches in the lobby to cut back on the gathering and encourage people to be in other places in the library.
9. Other Business - Ed has suggested that be begin to create a strategic plan (after the capital campaign) which would outline where we want to see ourselves over the next 3-5 years such as
   1. What are we / should we be doing for our New Mainers
   2. Do we need satellite locations- or a bookmobile?
   3. How do we fundraise - keeping givebutter as donor software
   4. When can we hire an archivist?
   5. How do we interface with partner organizations which organizations are we “relating” too and which ones do we want to begin to have a relationship?

Next meeting will be March 6, 2025