

## **Pelham Library Board of Trustees**

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 on January 21, 2009

Present: Adam Novitt, director, Nora Maroulis, Alberta Booth, Gail Berube, Jonathan Woodbridge, Marianne Reiff, Francine T Ozereko, select board member Jim Huber.

Minutes from the last meeting were approved and will be sent to Kim.

### **Announcements**

We should try to make a point to check the trustees folder occasionally.

Budget meeting with the finance committee will be held at 7:30 on March 2 at the Rhodes building. We will discuss our options at the next meeting in Feb. Jim says they are looking at a 10% reduction statewide. We should approach the meeting with a 3 tier plan; best case scenario, what seems middling fair, worst case scenario. If we have a "wish list" and some solid plans, we may be surprised with how we are received, but we have to be realists.

### **Old Business**

Policies:

Should we use the Ramsdell room for a child's birthday party, yes? No? Should we charge a fee? Jim suggests that any instructional event is free of charge, any private party would be asked for a small donation to cover costs. Users would need to sign a document, be responsible for clean up, etc. This and other suggestions will be considered by the policy committee and they will bring a proposal to the next meeting. Hours of use need to be considered.

Perhaps capital improvements would be a good thing for a wish list...a large projection tv for films, program, sporting events. It could bring people who aren't regular library users into the library.

Open sign is here and working! Jonathan put it up last night in the 2 computer bay area at the corner of the building facing Amherst Rd. Check it out!

## **New Business**

Fund raising ideas:

We need to think of budget relief as well as new programs. The Friends have been mainly responsible for fund raising from individuals, but the money they raise goes to programming, equipment, etc, but not to salaries. Major fund raiser has been the plant sale, which is no longer going to happen. Nora will speak to Diane to find out about their experiences with fundraising.

Nora and Marianne will look for more fundraising opportunities. The friends have scheduled a tag and possible plant sale in September.

Nora says we should try crafting the message around the need. We've decided to have a sign on the donation box that says "If you're late, donate".

Jonathan asked, "should we post the minutes on the bulletin board"? It was agreed to try it.

History Room:

Rob is working, as usual.

Trustees are keeping up with our reading, next chapter (5) will be for next month.

## **Director's Report**

### **Programming:**

Teas continue: this Saturday, Jan 24th - Celtic Harp  
David Robb is a possibility for March

On the Same Page programming:

River Valley Market, Kestrel Trust, G. Greenstein Trust - Feb 20

Dan Conlon bee talk is on Tuesday, Jan. 27 at 7 PM

Side Hill Farm: "Garden Planning for 2009" in March

Leslie Cerier: "Cooking with Winter Vegetables" is on Tuesday, Feb 3

Dave Jackie, author: "Edible Forest Landscapes" in February

Meg Taylor: "Keeping Backyard Chickens" is on Feb 24

Eric Hoffner: "That Log's Got Potential" - growing shitake mushrooms on a log (!) - on April 16

Patrick Zephyr: Photo Exhibit for community room

Candace Bradbury-Carlin, mixed media exhibit in April

Francine is not in March because there's no way to hang her large plates without banging nails into the wall!

Grants:

Equal Access - \$3000 in escrow

MBLC Grants:

Equal Access - Kindle - Adam ordered 2 Kindles this morning. They will take 4-7 weeks to arrive. (There will be late fees charged on Kindles.)

Possible purchase of Wii was not discussed.

Gates Grant - Money due in March 2009. Submit

proposal to Select Board?

On the Same Page \_ \$7500 in escrow, now paying for speakers and books (see warrant). \$250 allocated for children's materials, more for programming.

Highland Valley Elder Care - \$1500 awarded, waiting for Kindle 2.0

Space planning grant applied for, maybe yes, maybe no; will hear in Jan. or Feb.

Energy Committee:

Dubious about funding money being available from the state, time frame for grant money extended into at least next fall, Rick now attending meetings.

The energy committee is making changes to reduce heat loss in the building. They are trying: shutting off all the exterior vents, giving it a week and watching the monitors; they will close off the outside systems air handlers next. Be aware over the next week or so to see whether there are lingering smells, etc. They are trying to conserve without any cost to us.

Staff:

Isabel Ryavec continues light cataloging duties, mostly school stuff

Ashley Rodkey is really working out very well, is a very cheerful and upbeat person, easy to work with. She helped Adam make lists of books to order for the Animal, Vegetable, Miracle programming.

Jody has been hired to work with the children's story hour with Barbara. Most weeks she works 4 hours, sometimes she works a night or Saturdays.

We still need a children's story hour helper every other week.

Shifting: Possible shifting of videos to NW corner of library,

AF and NF to be located on SW side of library.

Purchased Quickbooks for library finances to have a clearer picture of current accounts. Hopefully, the next warrant will be put on Quickbooks.

Budget:

We are almost exactly on schedule, not counting grant money.

We have a bit extra in staff salaries because of illnesses, travel, etc. Adam usually covers for it and is on salary, doesn't get paid any extra. We will be ok for this year, next year could be a problem with everyone facing expected budget cuts.

Since the last meeting we've had holidays, snowstorms, etc - it's been a short month.

There was more talk about CWMARS, KoHA, etc. We may decide to forgo the \$1000/year payment for KoHA if our budget is cut too much. KoHA is great for everything except it is not clear if it can manage interlibrary loans and bookmobile.

Can we fix it and make it work, or do we drop out?

**Next meeting: Feb 18, 2009, 7PM**

Meeting was adjourned at 9:03.

Respectfully submitted,

Francine T Ozereko