

NORTH ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TRUSTEES MEETING  
April 12, 2016

**Present:** Harris Elder, Rich Remsberg, Hulda Jowett, Richard Taskin, Donald Pecor, Joan Owczarski, Director Mindy Hackner

**Guests:** iBerkshires reporter, Jack Guerino, Clare LaMere (Friends of Library), Michael Bedford and Sarah Sutro (neighbors from Eclipse Mill)

Chairman Elder called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the minutes of the February 8, 2016 meeting were approved.

### **Director's Report**

Director Hackner summarized the report provided to Trustees prior to the meeting and provided additional information.

- ❖ Total of Chromebooks being utilized is up to 6.
- ❖ Computer lab has increased from 5 to 7.
- ❖ In honor of National Library Week, coffee and donuts have been made available to patrons from 10 to 11; floodlight is on in the belvedere from dusk till dawn; staff is sporting library t-shirts provided by the Friends.
- ❖ Director Hackner and staff are reorganizing the downstairs to include *all* NEW items, including fiction, non-fiction, audio and video on a permanent basis.
- ❖ Reinforcement of the base of the library chimney in the basement is being undertaken by Foster Lewis.
- ❖ MLA conference that the director is attending will be addressing the importance of Core Services in libraries versus new innovations.
- ❖ Catering costs by North Adams businesses proved to be too costly for Robin's retirement reception, so Wild Oats of Williamstown will provide catering services.
- ❖ The open space downstairs resulting from collection reorganization will be utilized for Music in the Mansion, which in the future will offer a different variety of performers.

In reference to information provided about staffing by Director Hackner, Trustee Remsberg inquired as to whether the two new part-time employees were satisfied with their limited hours, to which the director replied that they were.

Also in answer to a question by Trustee Remsberg it was noted that Robin Martin had created an Excel spreadsheet template as the means by which to index the Transcript files.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was voted to accept the Director's Report.

**Financial Report:**

Financial statements for February 2016 and March 2016 were submitted using City Auditor David Fierro's Excel balance sheet.

Trustee Jowett inquired whether City funds given to NAPL had to be returned to the City if they had not been used. Director Hackner replied that they did.

Upon motion made and duly seconded, it was voted to approve the financial report.

**Old Business:**

Update on the reception for Robin Martin and display of framed NAPL print to be presented to Robin as a parting gift.

It was decided that the Trustees and Friends would split the cost of the gift.

Retirement reception for Trustee Truskowski will be discussed at the May meeting.

**New Business:**

Director Hackner expressed the desire to join the local Chamber of Commerce, citing that it would be a good connection to the community with access to over 450 emails, and an opportunity to make NAPL and its services even better known to the community and its leaders.

Guest Michael Bedford added that Chamber of Commerce membership cost for a non-profit agency was reduced by \$50, bringing it to \$150.

Trustee Remsberg added that membership in the Chamber might encourage more public and civic usage of NAPL of which he was highly in favor. Director Hackner agreed.

Chairman Elder indicated that this would have to be put on the agenda for the May meeting.

Trustee Remsberg suggested thinking about an intellectual challenge encouraging use of the library, equivalent to the mayor's fitness challenge.

Friends President Clare LaMere announced that the Friends were now accepting donations for the fall book sale.

**Open Forum:**

Brief discussion concerning a return to monthly meetings following the academic schedule unless there was a need during the summer to reconvene over a matter that needed to be addressed.

Guest Michael Bedford questioned our strategic plan: what, how long and where unspent library funds go. He also inquired about endowments. How do we

encourage the public and make them aware of planned giving, etc. It was agreed that this was something that should be given some consideration in future meetings.

**Adjournment:**

Director Hackner offered to show the reorganization space on the first floor to anyone present. Meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

**Next meeting:** May 9, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Owczarski  
Secretary