

NORTH ADAMS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TRUSTEES MEETING  
MAY 9, 2016

**Present:** Harris Elder, Rich Remsberg, Richard Taskin, Donald Pecor, Nicole Prokop, Joan Owczarski, Director Mindy Hackner. Absent was Hulda Jowett.

**Guests:** iBerkshires reporter, Jack Guerino

Chairman Elder called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Proposal to amend the minutes from the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, clarifying Trustee Remsberg's comments about an "intellectual challenge", changing it to "Trustee Remsberg suggested thinking about a program that would encourage the use of the library's resources, somewhat of an equivalent to the Mayor's fitness challenge."

Also proposed were spelling changes from "Clare" to "Claire" and "siting" to "citing".

Upon motion made and duly seconded, the amended minutes of April 12, 2016, were approved.

### **Director's Report**

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

- ❖ The replacement of the bad light in the central hall by Gus Giron from ELRI was paid for out of the library budget.
- ❖ There were twenty two applications received for the position of reference librarian
- ❖ The location change of "NEW" items to the front room downstairs seems to be well received by the public
- ❖ The non-fiction dvd collection has not been moved in its entirety due to the need for additional security cases whose locks can be consolidated with others on the first floor
- ❖ Efficacy of moving the entire computer lab to the second floor is being looked at, though the copier's relocation may be an issue
- ❖ Few resumes have been received for position of children's librarian and a key issue is finding someone who is willing to work Thursday evenings and Saturdays. Current employees Nancy Ritter and Sarah Scholl are candidates
- ❖ One public computer has been sidelined with a virus, as Kathy Wall has been unable to schedule time to repair it

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

### **Financial Report:**

- ❖ Our salary line is fine
- ❖ Less than \$2000 in funds will be turned back to the city and Director Hackner stated that she feels it is a good thing to be able to return some funds
- ❖ Chairman Elder agreed and expressed the hope that the city would be respectful concerning this issue
- ❖ \$800-\$1200 in fines and copier fees go to the city
- ❖ \$40,000 figure cited in the financial report is our total assets including revolving funds. It does include \$20,000 in state aid which pays for the library's CWMars membership, and does not include \$10,000 left in encumbered funds

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

### **Old Business:**

Chairman Elder will contact Joe Truskowski re dates he would be available for a retirement celebration.

The Friends offered to pay for the library's membership in the Chamber of Commerce, but because they have been exceedingly generous as of late, the Trustees offered to take payment of \$150 for the membership out of their funds.

### **New Business:**

Discussion ensued concerning the need for a treasurer for the Trustees, and it was decided that Hulda would be approached for this office.

Joan Owczarski was nominated as secretary, Rich Remsberg as vice chair, and Harris Elder as chair.

Upon motions made and duly seconded, the preceding were elected to office.

Trustee Remsberg commented favorably on "Staff Picks" and questioned if it might be a good idea to have the public offer their picks, and possibly involve City Hall as well.

Summer Reading theme is "Exercise Your Mind-Read". Director Hackner gave a brief explanation of what the program entailed for patrons; signing up, keeping a log, prize incentives.

Trustee Prokop asked if they could do online sign ups, but due to lack of tech staff, Director Hackner said it was not possible at this time. Trustee Prokop suggested looking into Google Forms, as this might be a possibility in the future.

Trustee Pecor asked if a title change for the library had at any time ever been considered. A discussion about the title athenaeum and its history followed, as well as the possibilities and options of the renaming of public libraries.

### **Open Forum:**

Trustee Taskins posed questions as to the definition of chrome books and how they worked, answered by Director Hackner. To which she added that our 6

chrome books currently had 70 sessions of usage and that the Children's Department's technology was constantly in use. The possibility of Glenn Lawson's retirement was broached, but at this time he was on sick leave and it could not be positively determined.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. Next meeting June 13, 2016 at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joan Owczarski  
Secretary