

Minutes
Boards of the Auburn Public Library and Lewiston Public Library
Joint Meeting
5/15/2013

Present:

LPL Board: Ted Walworth, Art Turley, Phil Isaacson, Jennifer GendronCarleton, Pres; Staff: Rick Speer

APL Board: Ed Cormier, Mark Foster, Bill Low, Jane Morrison, Connie Bedette, Dave Murphy, Pat Gautier; Staff: Lynn Lockwood, Suzanne Sullivan, Jim Wilkins

1. Alignment of policies and procedures

Rick Speer and Suzanne Sullivan explained various recent policy changes/alignments designed to eliminate duplicate cards and implement billing of one another's customers when books are overdue.

It was proposed and approved that discussion of aligning policies be a recurring topic on joint meeting agendas. (Turley/Murphy)

2. Issues around combining of the two libraries

A number of suggestions were made:

- Combining is a good idea, but should be done over time. Endowment issues are significant and we should get professional advice on how best to do the merge. Develop a plan and timeline.
- We should a study on the advantages/disadvantages (was done in 1991 based on creating a joint facility)
- Closing of either building isn't feasible, but there could be one board, staff merge, etc.
- May not save any money, but could improve services.

Rick Speer said that combining makes sense since both libraries are marketing to one clientele, make the same book purchases, etc, but he noted that both libraries are understaffed and he is concerned about finding time to do an extensive study. A community vote is a good idea to make sure this is what the public wants.

Art Turley suggested that a management study might identify 10% in labor savings. He also suggested bringing in the Maine state library consultant for this area, Stephanie Zurinski, to start the conversation about combining the libraries.

The group agreed that this was a good idea and discussed possible agenda items for such a meeting such as focusing on identifying benefits; combined goal setting; clarifying the difference between collaborating and combining; ensuring that both boards have the same vision; comparing existing policies.

It was agreed that Art Turley will invited Ms. Zurinski to a combined meeting the evening of October 3rd in the Androscoggin Room. Some staff members will also be invited. It was also agreed that the Boards meet jointly twice a year and possibly move toward four joint meetings.

3. Statewide card

Mr. Turley, who serves on the Maine State Library Commission, described various initiatives of the commission:

- The group is in the initial stages of developing a statewide library card. Currently any resident can have a Maine State Library card (entitling them to use the State Library in Augusta). Portland and Bangor honor this card, and the University of Maine system is moving in that direction.
- When the Commission was empowered to developed rules for Maine libraries their first actions wereto create a definition of a library and to require all libraries submit an annual report and subscribe to a statewide library email group (usually melibs). Failure to comply will result in revocation of the state-supplied high speed internet access.
- The Commission is also looking at defining three levels of libraries: reading rooms (don't meet standards of a public library), libraries (meet standards), and libraries of note (exceed standards).

4. Status of APL Director Search

Dave Murphy explained that the Search Committee has completed its work, two finalists were interviewed, and a recommendation will be made to the Board at a special meeting on Wednesday, May 22 at 7:30 a.m.

5. Updates

LPL:

- Budget was approved at level funding with the caveat that it will be revisited if reopen if there is a significant cut in state revenue.
- They are moving forward with a design for new teen room. New staff member Marcella Paris (adult services and teens) is doing a fantastic job.
- 3rd floor video cameras have been installed. There are now 11 cameras around the facility.
- The History and Gridley Barrow (5200 architectural photos) slide collections are online.
- They now have a password on WiFi to help limit access to those within the building because they were maxing out bandwidth.
- City will re-point granite building and do other exterior work.

APL:

- The budget process not finished. Our submission included a small decrease, but the significant increase in the school request combined with potential revenue decreases may have a dire impact.

- A mall business incubator space is being created on the Library's 2nd floor. The tenant will be selected and their progress overseen by team of advisors.
- P&G has agreed to donate tools purchased for their day of service to help initiate a tool lending library.
- Adult Services is starting a seed bank.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 a.m.