

Portsmouth Library Board of Trustees  
Meeting Minutes: Nov. 19, 2008

Present: Eli Abelson, Carol Lincoln, John O'Leary, Jody Record, Betsy Shultis, Megan Tehan, Mary Ann List, Steve Butzel. Excused: Amy Brnger, Barbara Ward, Ann Walker.

Minutes from October 2008 meeting approved.

Financial Report

- 1) Annual distributions from trust accounts held by the Trustees of the Trust Funds have been received. Earned \$7,694.87 this year. Money goes directly to purchases.
- 2) Megan will explore changing from Bank of America to local Optima Bank.

Director's Report

- 1) Two positions for library assistants are open; currently there is one potential candidate.
- 2) Steve is new president of the NH Library Association.
- 3) Mary Ann reviewed October and November calendars; attendance at two weekend events reveals potential for other programs.
- 4) Mary Ann, Steve and the library staff have been working on next year's goals. Evaluations of supervisors have been completed. Will help evaluate and plan for 2010 budget.
- 5) Mary Ann completed Finlay "Challenge Final Submission Report." A challenge, with a \$35,000 award, was to libraries, museums and historical societies to increase membership. The Portsmouth Public Library membership increased 15.5% during the challenge year. The report includes the addition of Sunday hours.
- 6) The online catalog has been simplified (similar to Google) but still offers advanced search option. Additionally, patrons can now manage their accounts online and can rate books they have read. By the end of December, there will be a page that resembles Amazon.com, with tags.

Pin numbers will soon be added and emails will be sent re: saved preferences, alerting patrons of similar items.

- 7) Amy and Betsy have both been reappointed as trustees.
- 8) Gifts were accepted from:
  - Tim and Ruth Vogt - \$50.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Floor Friends and Assoc. of Suzanne Woodland - \$40.
  - In memory of Roberta Lewis from Dorothy O'Leary - \$25.
  - Stephen and Helen Moore - \$25.
  - Colleagues of Roberta Lewis - \$30.

## New Business

Time capsule discussed. Eli presented ideas: election memorabilia, sports magazine; travel literature, UNH catalog. Trustees were encouraged to bring other ideas/items to next meeting for review.

No regular December meeting. Mary Ann will email evaluations of goals and objections for trustees to review prior to January 2009 meeting.

With plans for the Middle School expansion moving forward, a meeting has been called for December 8, 6:30 pm in the MacLeod Board Room.

Meeting adjourned 7:53.

Motion – Carol; second, Betsy