

Portsmouth Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes: March 18, 2009

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

Minutes from February 2009 meeting approved.

Financial Report

Funds at Bank of America will remain there in the regular money market and not be moved as previously reported.

The current library budget is slightly down in expenses. Three-quarters of the way through the year.

Director's Report

The City Manager has recommended the adoption of the library portion of the municipal budget as requested. The budget request for FY2010 is slightly less than the FT2009 budget. Everything in the library budget that can be has been level funded. The materials lines have been reduced a total of \$5,000. The price of books has inflated 2.8 percent; fewer materials will be bought from the city budget.

The first public hearing on the citywide budget is April 15. No library trustee meeting that night as scheduled. It would be good to have trustees (one or two) speak to the library budget at the public hearing.

Once the city budget is known, the budget for fines and fees, gifts and trust income can be prepared.

Measured against other libraries around the country, the demand for service at Portsmouth Public Library is very high; we are way above average.

Goal 2010: keep hours and staff at current level.

The Friends of the Library hosted the 2nd annual art display of work from students K-12; included reception for artists. Tremendous turnout.

Two exhibits coming in April:

- 1) Nancy Horton—photos by students in Mexico
- 2) Photos and stories from eight people living with brain injuries and participating in Stepping Stones
- 3) Recycled art: part of the sustainability fair

Art Acceptance Committee met March 3, 2009

- 1) Recommended trustees accept animal sculpture benches by Jeffrey Cooper for children's room, donated by Robert and Susan Thoresen. **[motion: O'Leary; second, Walker. All in favor except Ward, abstained.]**
- 2) Did not recommend to accept commissioned art. Trustees agreed to accept recommendation. **[motion: Walker; second, Shultis.]**

Gifts/donations:

- 1) \$25 donation in memory of Arlene Frost from Ruth Chevion. **[motion: Lincoln; second; Ward]**
- 2) \$2,177 in memory of Elaine Hussey. **[motion: Walker, second Lincoln]**

New Business

Grace Lessner will join the board of trustees after a second reading on her nomination

Barbara Ward's last meeting. Trustees publically thanked her for eight years of service **[motion: Lincoln, second Shultis]**

Old Business

Meeting adjourned

7:45 p.m. **[motion: Ableson, second O'Leary]**