

Portsmouth Library Board of Trustees  
Minutes  
Wednesday, November 16, 2011, 6:30 p.m., MacLeod Board Room

Present: Elly Abelson, Jody Record, Megan Tehan, Kate Gill Kressley, John O'Leary, John Crist, John Weaver

Excused: Grace Lessner; Carol Chellman

Staff: Mary Ann List, Steve Butzel

Secretary's Report. The minutes from October 19, 2011 meeting were approved.

Financial Report

1. The Director reviewed the income/expenditure report through October 2011; we are on track for the budget year.
2. The Trustee of the Library Funds report for FY 11 was reviewed.

Director's Report/Assistant Director's Report

1. Upcoming Events. Thursday night music will be interspersed with movies as a pilot program
2. Drop-in Help with Handheld Devices. This service has taken off, patrons are provided with one-on-one assistance sometimes lasting an hour long, several library staff take turns providing assistance, very popular.
3. Outreach to Portsmouth Housing Authority Locations. As with other publicly funded services, some of the program funding at PHA locations has been cut. However, Library staff continue to take programming successfully to Gosling Meadows and have even expanded some efforts. Programs were originally targeted toward young children with Lisa Harling from the children's room running a story time by invitation; eventually, she started recruiting teenagers to help with these story times and even parents started getting involved and getting some suggestions on engaging and encouraging young readers.
4. Special Collections. Rosamund Thaxter Foundation grant request written. This is one of two grants that help to fund the library's preservation plan overseen by Nicole Cloutier. This grant is available once per year. This year's request is to use the funds to restore one of the historical portraits in the library's collection. Last year's grant is wrapping up; funds were used to catalog the library's art pieces and to provide partial funding for the two digital history projects – the North End House History Project and the South End Haven School Neighborhood Project.
5. Festival of Trees. Portsmouth Garden Club at Urban Forestry Center Nov. 18-20 – the library will have a submission
6. Social Media Policy. This purpose of this policy is to allow controlled discourse, promote library's message to the public, market library programs, provide a limited public forum and allow the public to understand what comments will be acceptable in this public discourse.
7. Goals and Objectives. Evaluation FY2011 and MidYear2012, statistics provided for Quarter 1 of 2012, numbers lower than last year due to middle school construction and building access. Looking for input from trustees as representatives of the community on what to do and what not to do given expected limited funding situation for the library (and all city departments).

Trustee Activities/Reports/Discussion

1. Letter to support ILL Van Service drafted and delivered.

2. Letter to concur with ordinance change re: parking lot submitted to City Council.
3. Ceremony at City Hall Nov 30, 2011 6:30 for board and committee members in recognition of service to the city.

New Business – none.

Old Business – none.

Acceptance of Gifts and Grants. Nancy London and John Bohenko donated \$30.00 in memory of Dr. Linda White Strout.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30.

Next regular full board meeting: January 18, 2012 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Megan Tehan