Portsmouth Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes for Trustee Meeting November 18, 2015

Present: Shaula Levenson, Ernie Greenslade, Jack Jamison, John Crist, Jeff Landry, Don Margeson, Bruce Boley, Jolanda Fannin, Stephanie Hausman

Staff: Steve Butzel, Christine Friese

Meeting called to order at 6:32.

Minutes of October 21, 2015 meeting accepted.

Financial Report
- Income/Expenditure report through Oct. 31, 2015 reviewed. On target for budget at 1/3 through the fiscal year.

Director's Report
- Steve shared a Twitter accolade and good press for Star Wars Day.
- Programs:
  - National Novel Writing Month is in progress, tonight is 1st of 2 write ins.
  - Peace of Mind Series: Decluttering, Nov. 3rd (over 75 people in attendance)
  - Telescope demonstration, Nov. 7th
  - In Stitches (weekly knitting etc group) guest speaker, Nov. 10th
  - Parenting in a Digital Age, Nov. 12th; collaboration w/ New Heights.
  - Star Wars Day, Nov. 14th (over 200 in attendance)
  - Sensory Story Times, Nov. 14th (for special needs or would benefit from tactile experience)
  - Minecraft, 3 meetings in November

  Upcoming:
  - Joe Keefe, World Affairs Series, Nov. 19th (last of 2nd series of World Affairs talks, will hopefully pick up again in the spring)
  - DIY Google Cardboard workshop, Nov. 20th
  - Programming will have a bit of a slowdown as the staff considers goals and objectives.

- Outreach
  - Met with Executive Director of Crossroads, Nov. 12th (as part of library’s thinking about how to get wifi hotspots to those in community most in need)
  - Presentation given to 5 newly elected City Councilors, Nov. 16th
  - Upcoming visit from Gloucester Lyceum and Sawyer Free Library, December 8th

- Partnerships
  - We are hosting PMAC Holiday Concert, Dec. 18th, 7-8pm, the library will close for the event.
  - Building's 10th Anniversary (12/16/16) Celebration Committee will meet starting in December.
  - Discussed increasing the # of meetings organizations could have at the library from 8 to 10 per year. Steve will get us some more info on room usage.

Trustees Activities / Reports / Discussion
- Trustees expressed interest in touring other libraries
- Bruce met with Russ Grazier from PMAC to discuss additional concerts at the library; a series of after-school events.

New Business
- Library fees: currently $90 nonresident fee for year ($50 for ½ year) ($80/$45 for seniors); this was changed about 2 years ago. Other libraries’ fees vary widely, with different goals. Our fees were arrived at by looking at what portion of a Portsmouth resident’s tax bill goes to the library. We approved keeping the fees the same.
- We approved the list of library holidays
- Privacy policy discussion continued: discussed various approaches given the privacy statute. We’ll continue the discussion.

Acceptance of Gifts and Grants
Amended gift from Heinemann Publishing for AWE Early Literacy Station. Actual gift amount is $2,900 (rather than $3,000) due to actual cost of the equipment being clarified. Accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:52. We agreed not to meet in December.

Next Regular Full Board Meeting: January 20th, 2016 at 6:30.