

Portsmouth Library Board of Trustees Minutes
Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 6:30 p.m., MacLeod Board Room

Present: Elly Abelson, John Crist, Ernestine Greenslade, Grace Lessner, Mary Olea, John O’Leary, Jody Record

Excused: Kate Gill Kressley, John Weaver

Staff: Mary Ann List, Steve Butzel

Secretary’s Report. The minutes from the May 15 meeting were approved.

Financial Report. The Director reviewed the income/expenditure reports through May 2013, and FY13 projections. The Board approved requests to transfer funds from the Mahoney (\$887 to Fund 83 to fund two summer programs) and Possner funds (\$4,000 for furniture for lobby).

Director’s Report/Assistant Director’s Report. Programs and Exhibits (promoted via handouts, website and EventKeeper calendar). Areas of concentration include:

- Movies in July. No Thursday night movies in August.
- Blind Date with a Book is underway. The book will be wrapped and a surprise to whoever selects it, with a hint of its genre. Initially, 60 books will be wrapped and ready to check out.
- Senior emphasis on daytime programs.
- The Summer Reading Program, Dig into Reading, will kickoff June 27th at Four Tree Island, with a rain date of June 28. There’s an extensive calendar of activities for children and teens, funded by Discovery/STEM/Mahoney grant support. Members of the city’s AFSME 1386 will be on hand with “digger” equipment that will appeal to kids.

Technology. The library’s laptops and tablets are being focused on maximizing in-house use by patrons and staff. For instance, there’s a secured iPad available in Youth Services for apps and games.

Staff Activity. With Jennifer Moore’s resignation as Library Assistant II in Technical Services, there has been a reorganization to reallocate staff where most needed. The positions of Librarian I Reference (f-t) and Library Assistant II (p-t) have been advertised, and are in the process of being filled.

Budget Development. The Director reviewed the gross budget development, and the Board approved it.

Cooperative Efforts / Community Partners. The NH Dept. of Education gave a grant to the Portsmouth School Department and Portsmouth Housing Authority that the Library will participate in.

Portsmouth History Portal. The Library’s digital projects are focused on integrating the Portsmouth Athenaeum’s and Library’s archival city records, including photos and video. Strawberry Banke Museum is beginning to plan for an electronic portal, and the three organizations hope to work together to make the city’s historic records available digitally. A Rosamond Thaxter Foundation grant will provide some funds for these digital projects.

Trustees Activities / Reports / Discussion – none.

New Business – none.

Old Business – none.

Acceptance of Gifts and Grants – none

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 PM. Next regular Board meeting: August 21, 2013 at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Grace Lessner, Secretary