

LIBRARY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Thursday January 19, 2012

5:15 p.m.

Local History Room

In attendance: Denise Dunbar, Jill Krowinski, Rachel Van Vliet, Gavin Blumenthal, Peg Boyle Single, Emer Feeney, Eric Lindstrom, Robert Resnik, Robert Coleburn, Mary Ellen Manock, Amber Collins, and Dan Balon

1. Agenda & Notice of Warning
2. Minutes-Approved
3. Public Comment – No comments
4. President's report-

Eric thanked those who helped with the annual report mailing and reported they've been mailed.

Eric attended the Labor Management Meeting last Thursday morning. It was a great chance to listen to all the goings on at FFL, including the work of part-time staffers. Khristian Kemp DeLisser came to talk from the UVM ALANA student center, which a connection he'd like to follow up in building some meaningful, visible two-way links between the diversity at UVM and the Burlington community / FFL patrons. Lots of great outreach and cultural events are taking place at the library that Barbara and Rebecca were able to share. It would be great to have attendance from the Board at every Labor Management meeting, esp. because Tess plans to continue Will's work in the Retreat from last April, but to break up diversity activities into the monthly Labor Management sessions. Response was positive to the January Meeting. Rebecca tells me the next one will be Feb 9 from 10-11:30. Eric can go, but would like another member of the Board also to consider attending, if anyone is free.

Eric also reached out to the mayoral candidates to come and speak with the Board and didn't get any responses, wants to try to get them at our next meeting. Wants to invite all three mayoral candidates.

5. Co-Director's Report - The water pipe that broke has done a lot of damage to the old portion of the library and staff is still assessing the damage. The library doesn't need book donations, but money is helpful.

The 21st annual Books for Children Gift Campaign was a terrific success. The Youth Department collected a total of 1,030 books and distributed them to Head Start of Chittenden County, the King Street Area Youth Program, the Sara Holbrook Community Center, and the VNA Family Room. A number of holiday books and books for older children were also delivered to COTS. Rebecca Goldberg and Robert Resnik made the deliveries and were excitedly received by each of the organizations. A significant number of the books were donated to the program by families who participated in the "Polar Express" train ride, sponsored by the VT Children's Trust Foundation. We are hopeful that the Vermont Children's Trust will collaborate with us on this project each year from now on. Crow Bookshop did a terrific job of advertising the program for us and for encouraging shoppers to purchase books at Crow at a 20% discount.

Robert Coleburn and outreach librarian Barbara Shatara are traveling to the Vermont State House on Thursday January 19th to take part in the press conference and check presentation ceremony at the State House for our Vermont Arts Council Cultural Facilities matching grant totaling \$33,458. The grant will be used to purchase computer and audio-visual equipment and for other improvements to the Library's meeting rooms.

New book shelving for the Local History room has arrived, and will be installed in mid-January. Funding for the new shelving was provided by the Friends of the Fletcher Free.

The Youth "Picture Books Area" was spruced up a bit in December. The couches were cleaned, and new puppets and toys were put out for families to enjoy. The puppets, puzzles, Duplos, puzzle cabinet, and two Duplo building stations were purchased with funds donated in FY 2010-2011 by the Bergeron Foundation.

The "sandwich board" sign stating the Library's "no smoking" policy has been on display on the walkway leading to the main entrance since the beginning of January.

Staffers Megan Butterfield, Emer Feeney, and Robert Resnik performed for an enthusiastic audience on the afternoon of First Night at the First Congregational Church. Library singalong CDs were sold at the show to help raise money for Library programming.

Burlington City Arts is planning an auction to benefit the Library sometime in February or March 2012. This money will be used to make up some of the \$21,000 in personnel cuts made to the FY 2013 budget.

City Council will hold a preliminary budget hearing primarily focusing on cuts to fire and police in the FY 013 budget on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2012 in Contois Auditorium.

Library Staff's Labor Management Team held their monthly meeting on Thursday, January 12th in the Community Room. Based on the results of last year's Cultural Competency Retreat, we have reorganized Labor Management to be monthly "mini retreats" where cultural competency issues can be incorporated into the agenda. This month's topic was "Getting Ready to Market the Library to Diverse Communities"

Ashley McAvey is working with Michael Metz and Councilor Karin Paul on reaching out to targeted people in the community for donations to the Library to help defray cuts made to the Library's budget.

6. Staff Commissioner Report

Charles Dickens series is coming up for his 200th birthday
There have been successful book groups connected to Flynn shows
Alayna is working on more lectures in Russian, German, etc...
Robert has done nice work on furniture rearrangement
Christine is working on shelving in the Local History Room which will be geared more towards geneology research

Emer was recently on TV (WCAX) to discuss some books. Several patrons have since requested the books she mentioned. Robert will upload the clip onto the FFL Facebook page. All the part-time staff were at the labor meeting which was great because they don't always seem to have a voice but they are very important to FFL. FFL has a Twitter account! Christine manages this. Tess (Youth Americorps Staff) puts young adult events on Twitter.

Craig Carlsen is coming to the end of his probation period at the FFL. He has been a great addition to the staff and has worked on increasing sales of books for Friends of (including putting appropriate prices on books).
All positions are filled at the library.

7. Committee Reports

Development Committee will have an extra meeting in February to discuss Ashley's position and request of a raise. Ashley is a Fundraising Consultant the FFL has hired. She has requested a raise of \$10 more per hour. Eric would like to meet to discuss what Ashley is accountable for. We wonder what fundraising results from her and what doesn't. At the extra Development meeting we will discuss the terms of her contract. Because of structural issues with the budget, we need help with fundraising and cannot do it on our own. Ultimately, the Board will vote on this issue.

8. Friends of the Library Report

The Bookstall has made \$730 since it has started. About \$600 was made the week before Christmas and it's made about \$100 a week since then.
February 9-15 will be the \$1 book sale

9. Discussion

E-Books: We should be clear on our website that our e-book collection works with all devices (Kindles, Nooks, etc...). Should the FFL offer workshops on using e-book readers? Robert noted that it is difficult to do this because of the many different types (they had a similar problem when email was starting). We want to expand on our e-readers because it can be a great way to generate excitement for FFL.

10. Actions to be taken

Peg will contact the Mayoral Candidates to invite them to our February Board Meeting
Mary Ellen and Eric will attend the February 9th Staff Labor Meeting
Gavin lives in Central Vermont and will no longer be able to be on the FFL Board. We will have to start looking for another person to fill his spot.
Next meeting will be February 16 at 5:15PM. Note: we decided that if the mayoral candidates are unable to make this date, we may reschedule the meeting.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: **Thursday, February 16, 2012 at 5:15 pm in Local History**