

Cambridge Public Library
Board of Library Trustees
November 15, 2012
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Wednesday, November 15, 2012 at 6:30 PM in the Trustees' Room, 449 Broadway. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
 - Andre Mayer
 - Patricia Payne
 - James Roosevelt
 - Nancy Woods
- Also present:
- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
 - Marilyn Gagalis

Minutes from the October meeting were approved.

Old Business:

- Susan Flannery updated board members on fundraising efforts. The event to be held on November 30th at the Main Library for the first demonstration of the digitization of the Cambridge newspapers has received a very limited response. After a brief discussion, board members decided it would be best to cancel this event.
- Susan Flannery also reported that Deputy City Manager Richard Rossi has approved the idea proposed by this board to redesign the garden area at the O'Neill Branch to create a quiet sitting area/garden in front of the wall where the O'Neill mural will be placed. Mr. Rossi proposed the spring as a realistic time for the newly landscaped garden to be created. He will consult a landscape architect from the city about the design.
- The staff development day on November 2, 2012 was very successful. Training and team building activities were designed to relate to our theme of "Us Only Better". The feedback from staff was very positive.

New Business:

- The City's bi-annual citizens opinion survey is complete and the library received not only favorable reviews but higher scores than any previous survey. Only 22% of respondents had not used the library in the last 12 months and 88% considered library services excellent/good.
- Board members agreed to the invitation by Friends' president Arend Sluis to bring the two groups together in January for a social event. Mr. Sluis suggested the two boards get to know one another and share ideas about the library. The Trustees agreed to propose their planned meeting date of January 10th for this occasion and to host the gathering in the Whale Room where they could all view the newly installed Curious George graphics.
- The board discussed the possibility of more Sunday openings as requested by the community. Ms. Flannery informed the board that union negotiations were currently underway and this topic was on the table. She will keep the Trustees updated.
- Patricia Payne initiated a discussion concerning the Massachusetts Library System (MLS) and its new leadership and new directions. In an MLS meeting recently held in Cambridge, librarians including Ms. Payne were part of a focus group addressing the issues of resource sharing among all libraries, not just public libraries. Both Ms. Payne and Ms. Flannery shared a very positive view of the new initiatives being addressed by MLS and the leadership role they are striving to reach, and both were very excited to announce that in April 2013 the Massachusetts Library Association will hold their annual conference in Cambridge. Bertha Chandler and Joseph Logue from the Cambridge Public Library are on a committee that is planning the conference and we have offered to host some activities and provide tours.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andre Mayer, Secretary