

**Minutes**  
**January 12, 2009**  
**Joint Meeting with Friends of the Library and Trustees**

*Trustees present:* Janet Axelrod, Bill Bary, Andre Mayer

*Friends present:* Patsy Baudoin, Judy Elstein, Monique Fischer, Ryan Gray, Martha Osler, Suzanne Pearce, Frances Srulowitz, Susan Twarog, Judy Vollmer

*Also:* Susan Flannery and Kelly Linehan; Chris Robinson for Mid-Cambridge Coordinating Committee

**Building update:**

The main library will be closing January 31 so library can be emptied and furnishings made available to other city departments for salvage. Book drops will be open for several weeks after library closes. Library needs to educate public about reason for closing now.

Increased patronage expected at Central Square and Boudreau branches. There will be a need to create more room and to reconfigure spaces at these libraries which may require that they close for 1-2 days.

Shelving is scheduled to be installed at new library in May but because of security concerns there may be a delay in bringing in books, etc. Collection may have to be in storage temporarily although everyone is working to avoid that. Staff needs to go through 50,000+ volumes now in storage.

Some items need to be re-catalogued, and some may change from Dewey order to affinity classification, i.e., "Home Projects" might include paint, carpentry, decorating, etc., in the manner of a bookstore. Many of these decisions need to be made before movers come.

**New fund-raising initiative:**

The library budget comes from city and state grants. Would like to raise private funds to supplement budget in order to enhance the long-term viability of the library as an initiator and innovator. The money to be raised is not for essentials; it is to turn a good library into a great library.

While there are currently legacies and trust funds designated for library use, they are limited to the purchase of books. The new fund would provide discretionary monies for new technologies and help the library in its outreach programs and in its quest to improve literacy.

The library is a government entity, not a 501C3 (private nonprofit) – so it is not eligible for some funds. Donations can be accepted through the relationship with the Cambridge Community Foundation.

Susan distributed a 10-page document titled “A Great Library for a Great City,” putting forth the case for the fund. She asked members to carefully read the document and send comments to her. She would like to know if the statement effectively makes the case or if something is missing.

Janet Axelrod and Jim Roosevelt will co-chair fund-raising committee with assistance of three members from Executive Service Corps. An opening brunch party will be held January 31 to cultivate people and develop interest.

The remainder of the evening was spent in small groups brainstorming lists of people in the community who might help with this project.

Next meeting is Monday, February 9, 2009 at 6:30.