

Minutes of the Board of Trustees

The Town of Amherst and the Jones Library, Inc.
April 6, 2007, Jones Library's Trustees' Room

Present: Trustee Wang, Trustee Holland, Trustee Grose, Trustee Page. Absent: Trustee Turner, Trustee Burack.

Also Present: Library Director Bonnie Isman; Sondra Radosh, Children's Librarian; Tina Swift, Staff; Kay Moran at 11:00 a.m.; Members of the Public

The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m.

Minutes: last –page 2 ESL : Ms Grose suggested contacting Conlon for assisting our ESL students; eliminate the word “worked.” Next to last page, next to bottom paragraph: consideration of Fin Comm Proposal: Elim. Ms. Grose in favor of voting ... she's in favor of supporting override. Add Prepared by Tina

Motion: to Accept the Mins as amended. Vote Unanimous.

Ms. Wang welcomed Nonny in absentia, noting that her leg is very painful and makes her unable to get around.

Beth Girshman had submitted a summary of her conversation with Nancy Condon and the Trustees studied it. Beth requested strategies for circulating materials use. Ms. Wang noted that the Board does not like to micromanage. Ms. Wang did suggest finding out the frequency of use of items and looking at fundraising possibilities.

Ms. Page reiterated that the Board should not micromanage the selection of materials and suggested that Library supervisors should interact with the Director using the Collection Development Policy.

Nominations Process: Last year, the Board called for volunteers for committees and duties. Ms. Wang suggested using the same method. The election of officers will be at the Annual Meeting on May 14, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. in the Career Center downstairs.

Treasurer's Report: There is no treasurer. Ms. Holland volunteered to be Treasurer with training from Mr. Bridegam.

Director's Report: Yesterday was Legislators' Day (MLA) in Boston with legislative briefings regarding status of bills that relate to libraries. The House Ways and Means budget has not been revealed yet. Bonnie, Sue, Linda met with Sen. Rosenberg's aide and there is now more than a Billion dollar gap in the state budget. None of this will impact the FY08 budget, however, Sen. Rosenberg is not willing to take a leadership position on library bills because his main thrust is university funding. Ellen Storey has a nicer office due to her new relocation. There is a decline in population in the state, which

contributes to a decline in state revenues. This results in a decline in state aid for libraries. Sen. Augustus (Worc) was recognized as Advocate of the Year because he had championed the new Public Libraries Fund.

Patron Rights and Responsibilities: Revised proposal for ensuring the safety of children.

Motion: To accept the Patron Rights and Responsibilities as amended. By Anita, second Wang Unanimous

Capital Planning: Replace Carpeting, replace chairs and tables, replace front windows facing Amity St., replacement of computers and copiers. The Joint Cap Plan Comm has a target of cutting another \$400,000 from capital projects. No chairs and tables, no carpets, poss \$6,000 to plan windows replacement with architectural drawing (Comm. preservation?), computers are still in. The current roof work (Rivet Co) should start next week and should stop the leak in the Trustees' room. The paint inside needs to be scraped and re-painted. There is so little money for capital projects that there will be few projects. Ms. Isman suggested that this might be a good time for space planning.

Ms. Holland suggested getting a plan together to present to the Historical Commission. This plan should be ready in October. The CPAC money went down from \$20,000 to \$10,000 for FY 08.

Ms. Moran from the Fin Com said that although the final vote has not been taken, there is no support on the Fin. Com. for giving the \$19,000 in fines to the Library's FY08 budget (rather than to Town revenues in the General Fund). The Fin Com considers these fines as municipal revenue and \$19,000 is seen as a 2.8% increase in the Library's use of Town funds. The Fin Com wants a list of what would be eliminated without the \$19,000. The Fin. Com. wants to caution the Trustees in using state aid now because they will not have the funds available for FY09. There must be a plan to consider future budgets. The Library budget will be considered again either Tues. or Thursday of next week.

The Trustees thanked Ms. Moran for coming with information from the Finance Committee.

Town Meeting Presentations: May 7th first day. Info needed by April 17th for the mailing to Town Meeting members.

Discussion of a presentation to Town Meeting. Ms. Page suggested using a one time sale of art instead of asking Town Meeting for \$19,000 from fines. Ms. Isman noted that the only way to reduce future obligations is to reduce staffing, either ESL or half of the Special Collections assistant because this same issue will continually present itself.

The discussion centered on whether it is better to eliminate the ESL program or to cut more from materials and close on Sunday. Both cuts in hours and cuts in materials will cause the state aid to drop. Ms. Isman urged the Board to bring the issue of the \$19,000 in fines to Town Meeting for their vote.

The Director told the Board that the Jones is receiving \$2,163 more in state aid because other libraries did not qualify for state aid.

The Board will send to Town Meeting what was voted at the last meeting.

Motion: to accept \$2,136 more in state aid, amending the FY08 budget including that amount by Wang, Holland Unanimous

Ms. Page, after hearing from Fin Com that \$19,000 must go into gen fund, advocates that the Trustees reduce the FY08 budget to a 1% budget (eliminating the \$19,000).

Committee Reports:

JCPC – Meeting today.

Fundraising – May 9th meeting rescheduled to April 30, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. in the Large Meeting Room.

Long Range Planning – committee will be dismissed at Annual Meeting.

Town Personnel Comm: Meeting is on April 24, 2007. They want the Select Board to approve the reclassification study for non-union personnel.

250th Comm: Ms. Grose reported, “It’s exciting.” New members are bring great ideas.

Amherst Planning Together: Contacted the Director about revising a report which didn’t mention the Library.

Burnett Gallery: Ms. Holland reported that they are ‘moving along.’

Friends of the Library: Ms. Isman reported that there is \$20,000 that could be donated to the Library, however, the Board took no vote on that.

Meeting schedule: May 14, 10:00 a.m.

June 12, 10:00 a.m.

July 17, 10:00 a.m

August no meeting

Meeting adjourned at 12:30 P.M.