

The Jones Library's Board of Trustees' Meeting

Oct. 6, 2009, Trustees Room of the Jones Library

Present: Patricia Holland, President; Chris Hoffmann, Treasurer; Louis Greenbaum; Carol Gray; Sarah McKee. Absent: Kathy Wang. Also Present: Bonnie Isman, Library Director, & Staff.

Barbecue on October 4, 2009: Great success! I'll write thanks to all concerned; and to the paper. (Total take not available yet.) Including Vincent O'Connor, who sold \$1,000 worth of tickets.

Re PayPal: The account is free but costs \$30.00 per month for the virtual terminal, which we need to process credit card contributions. We set PayPal up for the barbecue. We will keep PayPal at least through the annual fund drive, which starts soon.

Reopening the Jones on Friday afternoon: We cut \$48,000 from staff and some have moved on to other jobs, so this is difficult to do this week. Amy Anaya: why are we reopening Friday afternoons instead of Monday mornings, when it would be really busy if we were open on Monday a.m. because adults want to get to work? People are asking her this question. Carol Gray: This is to undo the Friday p.m. closing that resulted from Town Meeting's not having voted our FY2010 Municipal Appropriation Requirement.

Motion: Carol Gray moves that we reopen on this Friday if the Assistant Director, Sondra Radosh, determines that it can be done safely and adequately. Pat Holland **seconded**.

Louis Greenbaum: By any measure, this has been a great success – which we can assure the people of Amherst that we can reopen on Fridays for the indefinite future. Trustees have several times affirmed that Jones should be staffed so as to ensure safety and security.

Amy: her desk can function. Sondra Radosh has one possibility only.

Vote: 4 ayes, 1 nay; one absent.

Investment Policy **Motion:** Carol Gray moved that we switch our endowment from Gage-Wiley to Vanguard. Pat Holland **seconded**. **Vote:** 5 ayes; one absent.

Chris Hoffman will write a thank you to Vanguard. S. McKee will write thank-you cards to David Farnham of Wells Fargo, Stakeholders Capital, and Weiss Capital Management.

Bonnie Isman: There was no explicit risk assessment done in 2004 when the endowment went to Vanguard. I will ask Gage-Wiley to send everyone whatever questions it asks in order to do a risk assessment, as well as the proposed investment policy (after I go over it with Judeth Raineville of Gage-Wiley.)

Board consensus: ask Johan Brongers to become a member of the investment committee. He is one of the Gage-Wiley references; has a solid corporate background; and is a former Treasurer and Vice president of Finance of Hampshire College. S. McKee will ask him to do so.

Four Boards Meeting on 15 October 2009: Carol Gray has drafted a letter to the Budget Coordinating Group to make clear that we support the BCG while having a fiduciary duty to craft the libraries' budget. We can't let the BCG set the libraries' budget. Pat Holland – The BCG is simply a group in which the various departments communicate with one another. It was not established to set policy. Chris Holland – The issue of expanding the BCG's function has come up openly. Pat – The BCG is calling this Four Boards (the 2 school boards, the Town (Town Manager and finance officer come, and library – and finance committee comes) meeting, which is new. There's nothing in the BCG mission statement about setting policy. The Select Board has called previous meetings.

Carol Gray's **Motion**: that, after circulating the letter to all trustees for final review only, we send this letter as amended to the BCG, with courtesy copies to reporters Scott Merzbach of the Amherst Bulletin and Diane Lederman of the Springfield Republican. Louis Greenbaum: can we collect and show that the libraries took cuts disproportionate to what the schools and other departments? Yes. Chris Hoffman will look into these statistics. Re pressure being experienced for trustees to support an override, Chris Hoffman and Carol Gray agree that taking no position on an override is the best course. General agreement.

Next trustees' meeting: Thursday, Oct. 22 at 7 p.m. We cancelled the trustees' meeting for Tuesday, 13 Oct. Next meeting after that: Tuesday, Nov. 10, 7 p.m.

Bonnie Isman is interviewing two new gardeners next week. She will invite Ellen Goodman of the Friends of the Jones Library to walk around to see if there is any site for the donated elm tree that would satisfy both her and the Town Tree Warden, Alan Snow (re shading the building, help with air conditioning). **Motion**: Carol Gray moves that if a location can be found that shades the building and is agreeable to the Friends of the Library, we agree to it. McKee **seconded**. **Vote**: Unanimous in favor.

Carol Gray moved and Chris Hoffmann seconded that we adjourn. Adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah McKee