

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
April 16, 2015, in the Library Conference Room, Matt Duprey presiding

ATTENDANCE:

Trustees: Duprey, Boyer, Small, Griffin, Fish, Piche, McRoberts, O'Donnell

Excused: Widrick

Staff: Kerfien, Young

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 4:01 PM.
2. Public Comments: None
3. Approval of Agenda for April Small | Boyer *unanimous*
4. Disposition of Minutes of March Griffin | Small *unanimous*
5. Statistical Report & Financial Report
Motion to pay March's bills Fish | O'Donnell *unanimous*

6. Director's Report: Report was presented.

Investigated the St. Lawrence River Valley Redevelopment Grant, whose deadline just passed. Will ensure we meet the requirements for it – the wording could go either way – and save the application for next year (January-February.)

After discussion amongst board members and the director, it was decided that the final bill from Northern Tier for the stucco repair will be paid half from the bond and half from the last of the grant money if it hasn't already been dispersed.

The Garden Club and city Tree Commission will install ten trees and three benches in Library Park as part of the Arbor Day celebrations next Friday.

The Flagpole Challenge sponsored by the DAR is fully funded. Some donors wanted a plaque placed at the flagpole with their names or the name of someone they wanted honored. The question of wording arose and options were discussed. Would it include all donors or just those who specifically requested it? As having a metal placard specially cast for us would cost almost as much as the flagpole, would a nicely framed thank you inside the building suffice? We should make sure to have a photo up at dedication (possibly on Flag Day if feasible.)

We won Patty Ritchie's "Favorite Library" competition for St. Lawrence County.

The increase in state library funding meant an increase in Central Library funding. NCLS recommended putting the money toward databases: they are getting rid of some that are little-used and replacing others with better options. (The increase amounts to about \$2000, not enough for a whole database, but enough to defray the costs.)

Motion to commit the additional Central Library money to database resources Small | Griffin *unanimous*

The usual Friends' Spring booksale has been moved to July during the Seaway Fest to hopefully coincide with installation of elevator & better advertise it to the crowds. Plans are to have a continuing booksale established upstairs in the auditorium with the usual "First Day" pricing so people who miss the booksale can still shop here.

The city is looking to consolidate its phone and electrical services across departments with the Development Authority of the North Country (DANC.) Inquiries are being made to see if that is feasible for us.

7. Librarians' Reports

- a. Adult Services – presented
- b. Children's – presented in absentia

8. Chairman's Report - none

9. Committee Reports:

- a. Buildings and Grounds: did not meet
- b. Policy/Personnel: did not meet

- c. Finance: no report; no word on status of audit (final report will come in May or June as usual)
- d. Programming: report presented

10. Old Business:

a. Becoming a School District Library

A clarification from last meeting: we cannot legally make an “agreement” with the school district forfeiting any unpaid taxes, but the city is responsible for making the district’s budget whole just as the district is responsible for making the library’s budget whole.

The matter is tabled for a few months until it is time to start moving on it again, in keeping with the recommended 18 month timeline.

b. Elevator

Still awaiting funding

c. Removal of ramp and lift

The design is now SHPO approved and could be installed by end of June if bids are put out and received shortly. In addition to demolition, the city will install new sidewalks to the lift. Small suggested porous cement to avert some of the water runoff and buckling that partly led to the current issues.

The ramp is currently shut down – this week the concrete started crumbling and the stucco fell off. We will seek advice from city engineers as to the current stability and if it needs to be taken down immediately or if it can be used. McRoberts thinks it would be adequate for regular use.

11. New Business:

a. Having an Ogdensburg Museum in the Library

This was discussed some two years ago with previous director Wayne Miller.

The city is currently looking at the Dobisky Center, but would need State approval to renovate it.

Possible locations in the building were discussed. Many (such as the basement) would require extensive renovations. Our largest room is the auditorium – offering it (or a smaller possibility, the conference room) would eliminate it for other purposes, such as booksales, programming, and community events, but that could be outweighed by the potential benefits. Small urged the group to think creatively about the use of existing spaces, in particular if any were being underutilized.

Would the city pay us (monetarily or in goodwill) for the use of the space?

Are there grants open to us as museum/tourist destination that are not available to a library?

We do not know at this time what exactly the city needs. Piche will find out more specs on their requirements – space, equipment, commitment, etc. – and report back.

12. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm. Fish | McRoberts

Respectfully submitted by

Stephanie Young, Adult Services Librarian