



APL Board Meeting Minutes May 23, 2023

Present: Lisa Cesare, Ralph Harder, Sharon Bergeron, Dana Staples, Peggy DeBlois, Liza Dimitri, Michael Malloy, Heidi McCurdy, Sarah Gillespie (LPL), Pat Gautier, Mamie Ney. (Unfortunately, Suzanne Laflamme has resigned from the Board for family reasons)

Staff: Donna Wallace, Julia Rhineland

1. **What have you been reading:** please see online at our new website.
2. Approval of **March 28, 2023 Meeting Minutes:** Lisa made the motion. Seconded by Liza Dimitri. Approved with the correction of the spelling of one person's name.
3. **Adult Services presentation:** Donna Wallace made a wonderful presentation detailing all of the amazing programs and things that she is doing in the reference area of the library. Her department provides numerous programs and enrichment opportunities for our patrons, including: a Digital Literacy Education Program; Computer Literacy classes from AT&T, starting in June; the Read ME Program (with the Maine Humanities Council), an award-winning Maine authors summer program; local author talks; monthly movies for adults with disabilities; Senior College and Career Center programs; Community Cornerstone program (counseling for businesses and individuals) from the Community Credit Union; and activities at Auburn's Age Friendly Community center. Donna works with several of our Community Partners: the Age Friendly Center; L/A Arts Culture Advisory Board; Androscoggin Humane Society; and the Travis House Rehab and Recovery Center. The Library benefits from these and other partnerships: Free Botanical Garden passes; Androscoggin Adopt-A-Cat program, etc. Goals for the future: Donna wants to continue working with the men at the Travis House who are recovering addicts. And she wants to better meet the needs of the customers coming into the library. A speaker from the Maine Library Association talked about the huge divide between those who don't know how to use technology and those who do and she wants to expand that area. She wants to develop needed health programming working with Auburn's City's Health Department Director Jennifer Edwards. She also wants to provide more Book Discussions, possibly around Banned Books and Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE).
Donna spoke about the need for more workers at the Reference Desk (wish list). They had 5 employees but now are down to 2.5. They have customers waiting for help and there have been safety concerns when one person is working alone.

4. **Teen Librarian presentation:** Our new Teen Librarian Julia Rhineland started in early May and we are very excited to have her. She has worked as a middle school teacher and as a counselor at a Boys and Girls club. She has 2 Bachelor degrees and a Master's degree in French literature (Middlebury). She enjoys working on Community and advocacy issues. Working at USM-LA she produced a podcast for the Franco Project for 3 years. In the Teen Center at APL she is building on the framework that currently exists and should be a great asset to our Teen program. Julia is excited about the upcoming "All Together Now" summer programming as well as the on-going gaming night, the Anime (manga) club, the D&D night, and the crafting club. Julia is excited about building community partners and possibly developing a podcast experience for teens. She really wants to get some teens in the door! While the new PAL Center is being building she hopes to get more teens into the Teen Center.
Julia echoed Donna's Request for a bigger department at the Reference Desk (wish list).
5. **Director's Report:** Sharon Bergeron asked about Board recruitment. Bethany Lyons put something in the newsletter that resulted in one person who is interested. Mamie is meeting her next week. Mamie provided the Board with the Collection Development Policy for our information.
6. **"Fun Raising Committee Update:** Peggy DeBlois, Lisa Cesare and Liza Dimitri gave an update. Our major fundraising project for this year will be a community event on June 18th, from 1 - 4pm at Side-By-Each Brewery. There will be a Basket Auction (33 baskets) and the Kick-Off of our Summer Reading Program: "All Together Now." Promotional information is forthcoming on our website, local radio, etc.
7. **Governance Committee Update:** Lisa Cesare reported that work continues on the updating of "The Employee Handbook." When it is completed, the Committee will have it reviewed by an attorney to ensure it respects employment laws and regulations.
8. **Finance Committee Report:** Michael Malloy reported that the re-created Finance Committee has been meeting to get the Committee going again. They are doing an overview of the library's finances, banks accounts, investments, the yearly audit, and our endowments. They want to enhance the Board's understanding of their responsibility to oversee the Library's finances. They hope to have something to report out at the next Board meeting,
Ralph Harder asked about hiring more personnel. That will be covered in our Budget discussions in the fall.
Sharon Bergeron asked if the financial meeting documents would be accessible online. Bethany is on vacation so they weren't posted online this time.
9. **Lewiston Public Library Report:** Sarah Gillespie reported that despite 16 Letters to the Editor, the Lewiston City Council cut the Library's budget anyway. LPL is cutting their 50 open hours to 45 starting June 29, 2023. Their Summer Reading program kick off is coming up. There will be a Bike raffle and kids are writing reviews of books they are reading. They are continuing with interviews for a new Director. Lisa Cesare went to the meeting and said they have added a couple of new members to their Board.

- 10. What have you participated at APL this month:** Sharon Bergeron attended the Master Gardener program (12 people were there). Mamie plugged the new website, saying it is makes it easier to see what is going on at the library.
- 11. Executive Session to Discuss the Director's Evaluation:** Motion made by Lisa Cesare to enter into Executive Session at 5:22pm. Ralph seconded it. The Executive Session ended at 6:15 on a motion by Nicole Rancourt and seconded by Lisa Cesare.
- 12. Meeting adjourned** at 6:17 on a motion by Lisa Cesare and seconded by Nicole Rancourt.

Signed:

Liza Dimitri, Board Secretary

Date: _____