



Minutes
Auburn Public Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, September 26, 2023 4:30 p.m.
In Person - APL Conference Room

Present: Patricia Gautier, Ralph Harder, Michael Malloy, Heidi McCurdy, Nicole Rancourt, Lisa Cesare, Sharon Bergeron, Liza Dimitri, Dana Staples

APL staff: Mamie Ney, Bethany Lyons

Guest: Julie Colangelo, LPL Trustee

1. Call to Order/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM and introductions were made.

2. What have you been reading?

A full list was posted on the web site.

3. Approval of August 22, 2023 Minutes

The meeting minutes from the August 22, 2023 meeting were approved with no changes by a motion by Lisa Cesare and seconded by Pat Gautier. Michael Malloy and Dana Staples abstained. The rest of the board was in favor.

4. Director's Report

A full report was sent to the Board and stands as written.

Mamie Ney mentioned a number of upcoming events at APL:

The library will be participating in the city's Shops at Anniversary Park on September 28th. APL will be selling used books and original artwork donated by Margery Schuler. October 2nd begins APL's College and Career week with many exciting programs offered.

APL is close to hiring a teen librarian. Two new employees have started work at the front desk (Stephanie Cargill and Janine Champagne). APL is also close to hiring another new part time reference associate.

Mamie Ney also told the board that the insurance company will reimburse APL for her time, as well as Rick's time, for clean-up after the recent flooding.

Mamie Ney was contacted by Susan Weiss asking if APL could hang a poster and hand out bookmarks for BSmartforkids.org, a gun storage organization. Ralph Harder asked about who can post flyers at APL. Mamie told him that non-profits can post information, except for those that are not solely religious. Flyers must be provided to front desk staff to post.

Mamie also reported that APL will be closed to the public on October 11th for a staff training day. Dirigo Risk (recommended by the Auburn Police Department) will be coming from 9AM to 1PM for a de-escalation training with staff. The 2 hour afternoon training will be conducted online by NoveList. In November, there will be another staff training with Bridges Out of Poverty.

The Annual Meeting was a success with over 20 corporators present. With a quorum, the bylaws change to allow a quorum to consist of the corporators present at a Meeting was approved. The guest speaker was Lori Fisher, the new Maine State librarian. She spoke about the book challenges that are confronting libraries all over the country. She emphasized that Trustees must be aware of this issue, be prepared to defend

5. “Fun” Raising Committee

The committee had to postpone last month’s meeting.

6. Governance Committee Update

Lisa Cesare reported that the committee is in the process of updating job descriptions. So far, they have completed the Director and Assistant Director descriptions. Pat Gautier asked if any other Board members wanted to assist in the revamping of the Director’s review and Nicole Rancourt agreed to help. The committee also plans to review the Smoking/Tobacco policy for employees.

7. Financial Report

Sharon Bergeron, new treasurer, reported that the finance committee did not meet in September but will be meeting in October. She said the committee would like to meet with Mamie to consolidate accounts, as well as change signatures on accounts. Everything looks good – no concerns. The Board also asked Mamie to contact the Maine Community Foundation and ask if they would be available to attend the October Board meeting to provide an update.

8. New Smoking Policy

Mamie Ney presented the board with a No Smoking policy. This was something that Donna Wallace initiated after working with different health groups. The board made some minor changes, including adding the word ‘vaping’ to the policy title. A motion was made by Lisa Cesare to accept the policy with the minor changes and Nicole Rancourt seconded the motion. All were in favor.

9. Lewiston Public Library Report

Julie Colangelo, LPL Trustee, attended the meeting. She stated she is a new LPL trustee and volunteers there at least once a week. She said they are all very impressed with the new director. She also said there have not been any security issues lately.

10. Board Question: What have you participated in at APL this month?

Michael Malloy, Pat Gautier, Sharon Bergeron, Lisa Cesare, and Ralph Harder all attended the APL Annual Meeting last week. Liza Dimitri and Nicole Rancourt reported that they will be helping later this week at the Anniversary Park event. Dana Staples stopped by the APL table at National Night Out.

11. Other Business

Michael Malloy has been meeting with Mamie Ney gathering more knowledge about book challenges. He has asked that this be a standing item on the Board agenda going forward. He has asked Mamie to do a presentation at next month’s meeting about book challenges and how

APL handles these, including sharing the collection challenge procedures and the ALA Freedom to Read statement. If Board members get questions about book challenges, they should defer to the APL Director and the President of the Board. Nicole Rancourt pointed out that next week is national “Banned Books Week” with a number of programs going on. She will email information to Board members who wish to participate in the Maine Humanities Council programs.

Lisa Cesare will attend the October LPL board meeting.

There was discussion about organizing a Board Retreat. This will be on the October agenda. Michael Malloy suggested planning for two half days in January on consecutive weeks, with the second meeting being a Board dinner. He will send out a poll with suggested dates.

There was also discussion about the search for a new auditor. Michael and Mamie are still waiting to hear back from calls they have made. This will be put on the Finance Committee agenda as an action item. Lisa Cesare provided the name of a potential company, PGM.

In reference to new Board members, Mamie and other board members have received “no’s” from everyone they have contacted and asked to be on the board. It was pointed out that there can be 13 Auburn residents on the Board (currently there are five).

There was a discussion about the status of strategic planning and this topic will be explored in more detail at the Board retreat.

12. Executive Session

There was a motion made by Pat Gautier to go into Executive Session and was seconded by Nicole Rancourt at 5:40 PM.

There was a motion by Nicole Rancourt and seconded by Liza Dimitri to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 PM. All were in favor.

Signed:

Bethany Lyons, APL Administrative Assistant

Date: _____

Upcoming Board meetings:

October 24th at 4:30 PM in-person

November 28th at 4:30 PM in-person

December – No meeting