

**SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES FROM MARCH 21, 2012

In Attendance:

Trustees: Anil Gullapalli, Jack Hamilton, Mark Howland, June Pietrantonio, Lillian Riley, Ralph Veters

Library Director: Maria Carpenter

Public: Claire Fitzgerald

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 PM.

Director's Report:

- The Director met with the DPW to review the condition of the West Branch building.
- A volunteer meeting for the West Branch Children's Room Renovation has been scheduled.
- A Teen Advisory council has been formed to assist with the creation of a Teen Center in the Central library. The Advisory Council will assist with fund raising. The Council is also working on homework assistance, teen programming, and group projects.
- The Somerville Reads Potluck is scheduled for April 21st at 1 PM.
- The Director plans to schedule "Meet & Greet" events in each library.
- The Director has prepared the budget request for the City. It includes an increase to fund a youth services position that would be shared between Childrens and Young Adult services, a new line item for programming, and an increase in the materials budget.
- The Director made a presentation to Somerstat last month. She asked the City to consider a long range strategy to close the gap between the MBLC municipal expenditure requirements and the current budget allocation. She noted that current per capita expenditure for materials is only \$3.
- The Director made a Capital Request for repair of the East Branch roof and purchase of a security system.
- The Director expressed her strong support for the library bill of rights developed by the ALA.

President's Report:

- The President welcomed new trustees Anil Gullapalli and Jack Hamilton. All present introduced themselves and briefly described their connection to the library.
- The President asked trustees to serve as a liaison to one of the on going projects of the library.
- The following agreed to serve:
 - West Branch Renovations: June Pietrantonio
 - Foundation: Although not at the meeting, Kate Van Sleet has begun work with the Director on researching foundations.
 - New Library: Ralph Veters
 - Teen Center:
 - Value of Library Campaign & Website/Social Media: Anil Gullapalli and Ralph Veters

New Business:

- Planning Committee chair, Ralph Veters, presented his overview of the library system:
 - The library needs a strategic plan for dealing with personnel costs, state mandated expenditures for materials, technology costs, and maintenance.
 - The Branches should have defined roles which may not duplicate Central Library services.
 - East Branch serves an older population and a large immigrant community
 - West Branch serves a large number of patrons who use the internet to reserve materials on line.

- The East Branch would benefit from additional space to provide meeting space.
- Plans for the New Central Library should include a large public meeting space as well as smaller meeting spaces and a highly flexible environment that can adapt to evolving technology and programming requirements.
- The new library should support our diverse communities including elders and teenage youth.
- The new library should be technologically literate: supporting the use of AV resources in meeting rooms, and web access for training, employment applications, and research.
- Program and service priorities should drive physical plans.
- One of the principal functions of the trustees should be advocacy for the library.

The discussion of these ideas will continue at future meetings.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, April 11, 2012 at 6 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

Mark Howland, Secretary Pro Tem