

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING
December 18, 2014, in the Library Conference Room, Matt Duprey presiding

ATTENDANCE:

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

Excused: none

Staff: Kerfien, Young

Guest: Marc Boyer, Michelle McLaughlin

1. Call to order: Meeting was called to order at 4:29 PM.

2. Public Comments: None

3. *Approval of Agenda for November & December Piche (Widrick) unanimous*

4. Disposition of Minutes of Previous Meetings: *Fish (Griffin) unanimous*

5. Statistical Report & Financial Report

Motion to pay October, November, December's bills. Griffin (Fish) unanimous

Kerfien devised "new" budget as per the city council's last meeting – our requested 2% increase was denied, so numbers have been shifted to cover necessary expenses

6. Director's Report: Report was presented.

Architect visited to work on plans for removing the ramp and installing a lift – the cost is estimated at less than \$75,000

Mold removal was performed on November 24 and preventative treatment was applied to the area. Temporary drywall is in place, but the metal studs beneath are rusted out. We will wait to repair them when the ramp/leakage issue is addressed.

The elevator is non-operational. The jack, buried deep in the ground, must be replaced. The library has received three similar quotes: fixing the current elevator would cost around \$42,000, replacing it would run \$87,000. All three companies recommend replacement, as the elevator is more than 30 years old and other parts will start to break down. A Syracuse elevator engineer is looking over the quotes to make sure they fit our needs. We are looking for funding and have some leads.

Addie Russell toured the problem areas on 12/17, and Patty Ritchie's office on the following day

Budget – discussed above

Discussion of finances was held over for executive session.

The board and director offered praise and thanks for the staff's handling problems all around, and opined that they are in general wonderful.

7. Librarians' Reports

a. Adult Services – presented

b. Children's – presented

8. Chairman's Report - none

9. Committee Reports:

a. Buildings and Grounds: no report

b. Policy/Personnel: didn't meet

c. Finance: We will need a major fundraising effort (\$12,000+) to balance our budget for next year; meeting it without additional sources will more than halve our current fund balance.

In regards to going to school ballot, we have two options for 2015. We can ask for a figure each year, dependent upon that year's voters, or we can ask for referendum that adds a permanent "library tax," with only a change in the amount requiring approval each year. (With the latter, there is a danger that city

will then just cut the library budget by the amount granted, with no net gain.) Becoming a school district library is a more complicated venture – it involves getting our whole budget from the direct tax and requires both hard campaigning from everyone involved in running the library – board and director – and extensive state-level paperwork. We should do it eventually, but the campaign takes over a year to prepare. Fish suggested inviting NCLS to a future board meeting to present on the referendum option.

d. Programming: Haven't met

10. Old Business:

a. Elevator and Estimates – in director's report

b. Election of Officers – Chairman and Vice-Chairman *Motion to reelect Duprey and McRoberts Fish(Small) unanimous*

11. New Business:

a. *Central Library Budget approval – Griffin (McRoberts) unanimous*

b. New Board Members – discussion reserved for executive session

c. School Ballot for Funding – discussed above

12. Anticipated Executive Session 5:15 *Widrick(Small) unanimous*

Came out of executive session at 5:46.

Recommended Marc Boyer for appointment to the board.

13. Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Stephanie Young, Adult Services Librarian