



Petersburg Borough

12 South Nordic Drive
Petersburg AK, 99833

Meeting Minutes Library Board

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

6:30 PM

Public Library

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

approved

Present 6 - Board Member Mary Ellen Anderson, Board Member Marilyn Menish-Meucci, Board Member Alec McMurren, Board Member Barbara Fish, Student Representative Jasmine Ieremia, and Board Member Elizabeth Thompson

Excused 2 - Board Member Chelsea Tremblay, and Board Member Sunny Rice

2. Approval of the Minutes

approved

Attachments: [LIB#15-019 Minutes from March 25, 2015 meeting](#)

3. Amendment & Approval of Meeting Agenda

Ammended to include a discussion of unsupervised children and the internet. Added as item 10c.

approved as amended

4. Visitors Views Unrelated to Agenda

5. Visitors Views Related to Agenda

6. Staff Report

Landscaping Updates: We've been informed that Reid Brothers will not start work until this fall at the very earliest, likely not until next spring. The contract stipulates that work must be complete by June 30, 2016. A letter requesting a quote for plants will be sent to Flower Farm and Chelan in the next few weeks.

Library Meeting Rooms - Online Booking: We launched our online booking system April 1, rooms can now be booked online.

Catalog migration: Our data has been cleaned up and standardized. Testing will run for the next month. On June 15 we will have one day of down time and, on June 16, we will go live with our new catalog. No material will be due from June 13-June 29 to facilitate a smooth transition.

Grant applications: Two applications have been submitted for youth STEAM programs (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math) to the Petersburg Community Foundation and the State Library Interlibrary Cooperation Grant program. If received funds would pay for supplies, equipment and instructor stipends. The workshops proposed by Doris Olsen at a previous board meeting are included in these applications.

Summer Reading Challenge: The library will run two Summer Reading programs June 1-July 23. The first is a 'read to me' challenge to encourage pre-readers and reluctant readers to partner up with a buddy and read. The second is an

'independant reader' challenge for kids and teens. Kids and their parents can self-select as to which program is the best fit for them. Participants in both programs must read 120 minutes per week to be eligible to receive a raffle ticket for the prizes on display in the lobby. Kids who meet the 840 minute goal get and invitation to the VIP Pool Party. Lots of great donations have been coming in from the community.

discussed

Attachments: [Director's Report](#)

7. Unfinished Business

a. FY17 Budget discussion

A chart listing public libraries in communities with populations between 2,000-6,000, number of open hours per year, and other relevant data (attendance, expenditures, circulation) was provided for discussion. Under the current discussion to close Mondays, the FY17 annual service hours for our library would be reduced from 2408 to 2132, or from 50 hours to 41 hours per week. Board members compared this to other libraries in the State and did not find the decrease significant enough from what was being offered elsewhere cause for concern. Board member Fish reported that she had discussed the possibility of closing Mondays with a few people in the community and they felt it was understandable given the budget cuts being discussed. A discussion of the FY17 Budget will continue to appear under 'unfinished business' as needed to continue looking at the possibility of closing Mondays starting July 1, 2016. The director will now draft a proposed work schedule for staff and discuss with them the potential changes to their position duties to include janitorial and page duties.

discussed

Attachments: [Benchmarking hours with other Alaska Libraries](#)

8. New Business

a. Donation of non-library item: Tlingit Paddles

7 paddles were donated by the Paddle Workshop instructors. They still need to be lightly sanded and treated. They are functional paddles and intended for use. The proposal is to display them on the back wall of the community room with some educational information about how they were made and the canoe journeys. They could be checked out by people wishing to use them in One Canoe Society trips. The issue of liability was discussed and it was agreed that a waiver would be appropriate. The Society may also bring a canoe making workshop to town at a later date.

approved

Attachments: [Paddle Workshop Article](#)

9. Communication

Member Fish mentioned that someone who had checked out a Kindle, who then purchased their own, was having trouble setting up Listen Alaska to download books. It was generally agreed that the ListenAlaska checkout process was cumbersome, particularly when starting out, and that the long wait time for titles was also a shortcoming. The Director mentioned that people could book one on one tech help with library staff to get set up and learn the process. Member Menish-Meucci had shared information new service model that she saw at another library. It is a pay per rental service called Hoopla, billed as a Netflix for libraries. The always available aspect and better selection is a huge bonus, but it is cost prohibitive at .99-2.99 per check out. Ditigial users still comprise a relatively small group of current library users. It would be interesting to see if this model could be used on a state-wide level, the information has been passed on to the Alaska Library Network.

Member Anderson also mentioned that Sally Riemer had found the venthillation system noise during the poetry reading on Saturday had made it difficult to hear. The Director explained that while turning off the system was not an option, there is a microphone system as well as a listening system for the hard of hearing that could be used at future

events. It was recommended that a task specific volunteer be trained on this prior to the next event, to ensure a better experience for all. Thanks was given to the group that presented this well attended event.

discussed

10. Discussion Items

a. Review of online Pilot Archive

Board members tried using the online newspaper archive. For the most part comments were favorable. Member McMurren passed on a comment from researcher Doug Blank, a former Petersburg resident. He felt that the expense of trying to ensure the availability of hard copies and everything it takes to provide that service, that "nobody does it". He has found that every place he has gone in the world to do research you pay to search the online archive. He found the idea of maintaining the paper records unusual and impractical. And that, in this day and age, nobody can possibly provide that because of limited time, resources and budgets. Member Thompson said she was in complete agreement but did want to mention that photos did not reproduce well. It was generally agreed that this was probably the most compelling aspect of the paper editions, that the photos were of better quality. Member Fish reported a technical problem that could have been related to the browser being used. Library staff have heard lots of anecdotal evidence that the archive is very heavily used by lots of people, both in Petersburg and outside of Petersburg. It's featured on the Petersburg History Facebook page and has been well received there. The question of expense seemed to emerge as the most compelling reason for discontinuing the print collection, particular in the context of upcoming budget cuts. No action was made on the issue but it was agreed that once you get comfortable with the online archive, there does appear to be little reason to keep the print copies.

discussed

b. Volunteers

Use of volunteers was discussed during the Service Planning sessions and with regards to the FY17 budget cuts. The Board reviewed the beginning of an expanded and more formal approach to our volunteer program.

discussed

Attachments:

LIB#15-023 Draft - Volunteer opportunities list

c. Internet

Member Anderson brought to the attention of the Board a situation at school where a student attempted to view disturbing pornographic images on a school computer. The student claimed that he had gotten the idea from another boy at the public library. Both the school and library filter, but filters don't remove all inappropriate content. Upon learning this another parent whose 10 year old son is often at the library on his own became very concerned. Member Anderson let he know that it was not a good idea for children to be unsupervised at the library and that library staff do not act in the place of the parent, nor is it the school. The library is a public facility and parents are responsible for their own children and what they do on computers. Everyone who signs a library card agreement is made aware of this and consent to it. The concerned individuals have been invited to come down to the library and speak with the Director but so far this has not happened.

11. Adjournment