

**SOMERVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

MINUTES FROM APRIL 11, 2012

In Attendance:

Trustees: Kate Van Sleet, June Pietrantonio, Anil Gullapalli, Lillian Riley, Mark Howland, Ralph Vettors

Library Director: Maria Carpenter

The meeting was called to order at 6:06.

Director's Report:

The Director attended a meeting at the Mayor's office to review architectural plans regarding accessibility and the historic nature of the West branch. She reported that the Mayor is looking for a comprehensive strategy and cost analysis for the West branch including, but not limited to, costs for air conditioning, technology costs, children's room, furnishings, systems etc. The Library is still partnering with the Boston Architectural College and is also considering including East Branch in the plans.

The Director reported on the progress of the Teen Center, including drops for computers. Library staff are working on a moving plan and will be ordering shelving for the room. The City is very supportive of the project and is facilitating requests for computers from the IT department and requests to the DPW for construction work. The Young Adult Librarian has a second Teen Advisory meeting to get ideas from teens about the new space and programming. The Director is also in talks with Harvard to partner on a pre-text project and with Tufts to start a tutoring project.

Somerville Reads is underway. The Library has planned several events as part of the program. Trustees are encouraged to attend.

The Director suggested holding community meetings on the following dates: Thursday, September 21, 6-7:30 at the East Branch, Friday, September 21, 10-11:30 at the West Branch, Saturday, September 29, 10-11:00 at the Central Branch.

The Director submitted a request to the City to fund a Youth Services Librarian and would like the Trustees support and advocacy. She has also requested more money for materials and programs and has also put in a request for computers from the IT budget.

Committees:

Foundation:

Kate Van Sleet will continue to work on working with the Director on the identification of public libraries that have foundations and to set up appointments to talk to them.

New Library:

Ralph Vettors will continue on with his work on the Planning Committee and the building of the new library. MBELC will decide on the grant funding at their May 3rd meeting.

Teen Center:

The President is asking Jack to head up the committee.

New Advocacy/Web Presence:

Anil Gullapalli will lead this subcommittee. The Board discussed contributing to the Library blog. The President asked that the Board come to the next meeting with a short written piece about your liaison work (word format, 200 words).

Ralph Vettters will continue to head up advocacy outreach to Aldermen regarding strategic plans for the Library. This includes the Board's support for the following:

1. An increase the materials budget to comfortably meet state requirements (currently set at 12%).
2. Staffing costs that are in line with national standards and proportionate to the budget as a whole.
3. A line item in the budget for Programs.
4. A line item in the budget for Technology.

The Board unanimously passed a motion to support these strategic plans.

West Branch Renovations:

June will head up the committee for the West Branch renovations.

New Business:

Lillian Riley would like the Director to send her staff reports.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 9, 2012 at 6 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 PM.

Kate Van Sleet, Secretary