

Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Somerville Public Library
May 10, 2006

Present: Attending: Regina Hansen, Matthew Sperber, Ralph Veters, Mark Howland, June Pietrantonio, Lillian Riley, Patricia Wild, Ellen Rauch

The minutes from the April meeting were seconded and approved.

Ellen Rauch reported that there is a new librarian at the East Branch, Marilyn Eastwood. The Mayor has visited the West Branch a couple of times in the last month, and he has promised to renovate the bathroom, which is wonderful news. One survey of Sunday hours has been done, with 50 people filling it out. Weekends are people's times to come for Sunday people. The Friends Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 23.

Mark Howland reported that he had met with a consultant on foundations. They discussed setting up a planning group in the community to help us make decisions about board structure, by laws, etc.

The board looked at a beginning list of options for configuration of services in a system with a new library, between Central library and the branches. Such issues as allocation of square feet, what services will be in which building, and should the branches stay where they are or should we consider new sites.

Ellen showed some web sites of Teen Spaces in libraries around the country, including Dallas, Phoenix, and Seattle. Phoenix has a 5,000 square foot space that includes a café, a music room, and a dance floor.

The board discussed what the major children's activities are at present: 1. Storytelling, 2. Shows like Marionettes, 3. Plays, 4. Summer Reading Club, 5. Arts activities.

There was a discussion of what kinds of activities the 10-13 year olds are interested in, and the desirability of separating their activities from the children's room.

James G. Smith,
Secretary