

Newport Public Library Board Meeting May 21, 2008

Present: Rebecca Cohen, Curt Fewkes, Carol Fisher, Richard Kilbride, Terry Obteshka, Carol Ruggeri; Jennifer Keirans as note-taker.

The meeting was called to order at 5:21 p.m. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**Librarian's Report:** Presented by Rebecca Cohen

Newport Reads 2008: was a success, especially considering that the book selected, a science fiction novel, was an uncomfortable genre change for many readers.

Bridges to Literacy: the committee meets next week. Topics will be paleontology and geology. Some possible authors are lined up.

Budget: Cohen reports that so far in the budgeting process, the Library's budget has met with no serious challenges.

Usage statistics: Most statistics are modestly up. Reference questions continue to go down as library members become more adept at finding their own answers on the internet. We are unsure about the patron attendance, as a counter at one of the doors was malfunctioning for several days in April. (It has been fixed.)

Summer Reading: 2008 will see one big change in its summer reading program: Jennifer Haggerty will be in charge, dealing with any problems that might arise, since Cohen herself is now interim director of the Library. Haggerty will be assisted by storytime favorite Jan Eastman.

Staff training: a number of staff members attended training meetings.

- Serving the Hispanic Community – attended by Lupe Smith and Kay Eldon
- Oregon Library Association meeting – attended by Wyma Rogers, Cohen, Jeff Ingram, Sheryl Eldridge, and Keirans.
- CRSN Meeting: Attended by all library staff, as well as the library staffs of all members of CRSN.
- LNET Summit: Attended by Haggerty, Eldridge, and Rita Ruddiman.

(During the discussion of L-Net, Ruggeri asked whether staff tallies the reference questions received during L-Net sessions. We don't! Cohen asked Keirans to discuss this with Eldridge at the first opportunity.)

Programs: Oregon Book Awards Authors Tour was, very unfortunately, held the evening of a day that the library was closed for the CRSN meeting. As a result, it was sparsely attended, though quite interesting. However, not long thereafter a musical program hosted by the Ecuadorian band Chayag was attended by over 60 people.

**Proposed Policy Change:** As a result of the OLA training, it was decided that the library's privacy policy should be made available to the public. The Board was presented with the old policy (3 paragraphs) and the draft of a new one (4 pages). The Board agreed, after scanning the new policy, that it was too long and somewhat repetitive. Fewkes suggested that a staff member edit it for length and concision and present it at the next board meeting. Keirans volunteered to do this.

**Other business:** Fewkes described his recent negotiations with Mr. Stephenson, the gentleman who owns the parcel of property just north of the library. With the city's permission, he made an offer, which, after some discussion, was rejected. Fewkes says that Mr. Stephenson remains committed to seeing the library "end up with" the property eventually; but this is only a verbal commitment, and as Mr. Stephenson is quite elderly there is some concern that his family may not honor it if he passes away.

McConnell reminded the group that the Foundation retreat would be at her house on June 11, 5:15-8 p.m., and includes a potluck supper.

The meeting adjourned at 6:10.