

Fiske Free Library Trustee Meeting Monday, January 24, 2017

The meeting was called to order at 5:20 pm

Roll Call

Present: Bill Scala, Arthur Vidro and Robert Arcand, also present Director Michael Grace and secretary Marta Smith.

Secretary's Report

Read and accepted with one change for word error-bust should have read busy.

Arthur Vidro moved to accept the report with the correction, seconded by Robert Arcand and passed.

Treasurer's Report

A trust fund check was deposited to the account and the safety deposit box fee was deducted from the account. This was the only activity for this quarter. Robert Arcand moved to accept the report as read, seconded by Arthur Vidro and passed.

Director's Report

Patrons checked out 5,789 items during December. Despite several cold and snowy days there were over 3600 patron visits to the library during the month. 88 items were loaned to other libraries through interlibrary loan and 466 new items were added to the collection. Patrons checked out 136 ebooks and 208 audio books from our downloadable book service during December. 25 new patrons signed up for library cards. Patrons used 508 computer sessions and 128 wireless internet sessions during the month for a total of 514 hours of computer usage.

In 2016 Patrons checked out 85, 489 items, an average of over 7,000 per month. On average Claremont residents checked out approximately 6.5 items in 2016. During 2016 patrons checked out 1656 ebooks from our downloadable books consortium. For the first time, downloadable audiobook usage topped that of physical CDs with 54 % of audiobook checkouts coming in downloadable form. The library continued to be a critical provider of computer and internet access during the year as patrons utilized over 7500 hours of computer time, an average of 25 hours per day. To keep our collection up to date we added over 4,000 new items to the library's collection during 2016.

Of the services we provide we are especially proud of the impact we have on the development of reading skills in children. To this end we checked out over 28,000 children's books to Claremont's young readers during 2016. Children's materials made up 34 % of the library's circulation in 2016.

2016 was also a busy year at the library as we continued to provide the people of Claremont with unique and educational programs during the year. Programs on music, crafts, travel, history, art, literature, sports, health, and poetry filled the year. In February paper cutting artist Carolyn Guest returned to the library to present a program on paper cutting as an art form and to lead a hands-on workshop. Other craft related programs included two basket weaving workshops by Jen Haynes and seasonal craft making sessions led by library staff. Local and national history were well represented by programs ranging from the life of Eleanor Roosevelt to Colin Sanborn's famous Armchair Tours of Claremont. Authors presenting their works at the library included former Assistant Mayor Andy Austin, author of "So Don't I", Brookline firefighter Philip Soletsky, who has written a series of mysteries featuring a small-town firefighter, and Stephen Kukjian, author of a gripping account of Boston's Gardner Museum art heist. Claremont's own Lloyd Mann presented three travelogue programs detailing his trips to Alaska and the west. The mysteries of mind and body were explored in programs on

dementia, the healing powers of essential oils, and ESP and mind reading. June was all about Robert Frost as the library hosted a month-long exhibit of artwork entitled "The Road Not Taken-Artistic interpretations of the Poetry of Robert Frost" which was complemented by a presentation about Robert Frost and his poetry by actor and lecturer Stephen Collins. Musical programs included the return of Blues musicians "Poor Howard" Stith and Mike "Bullfrog" Rogers and the music of World War II presented by "Ramblin" Richard Kruppa, as well as a program on "Ragtime" music by pianist and composer Deborah Wyndham.

Children's programming took a decidedly high tech turn in 2016 with the introduction of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) based programs. In addition to the already popular LEGO programs and workshops the library presented programs utilizing Ozobots (small programmable robots), K'nex and snap circuits (electronics), and Makey Makey kits (computer interface invention kit). Traditional children's activities such as story times and activity times continue to be popular as well. The Children's Summer Reading Program "On Your Mark, Get Set...READ!" was a big success with the Children's Museum of New Hampshire kicking off the festivities with a program on "Amazing Inventions." Perennial Summer Reading favorites Steve Blunt, Tom Sieling, and Simon Brooks returned this year to delight audiences with music and stories.

The library is continuing to work to make more of its historical collection available in digital format. In 2016 we began digitizing our newspaper microfilm collection. Currently the library has the Claremont National Eagle from 1834 to 1846 available on the library's website in a fully searchable format.

New Business

Bill Scala asked Michael Grace to explain the difference between a town and a city in relation to the power of a Board of Trustees-Town library staff are not town employees and are overseen by their Board of Trustees, in a city form of government such as Claremont the library staff are city employees and the Board of Trustees is advisory and does not have the power to hire and fire, etc.

Bill Scala also asked if the library had the option to add or remove software from the library computers and Michael Grace said that we do not as we are networked with the city and they make decisions on what can be added.

Old Business

Michael Grace said that the new City Manager will be starting on the first of February, and that he is from Lancaster, MA. He will be stopping by the library on Wednesday, January 18, 2017 at noon to introduce himself and check out the library.

Budget Issues

Even though the budget hearing is not scheduled until June Michael Grace said that he has been told to begin working on it and to have it ready to hand in by the middle of February. The outlook is gloomy mostly due to the rising insurance cost and the no more taxes mentality. The department heads are being asked to submit a "what is needed budget" and also a budget reflecting a 5% cut.

Arthur Vidro shared information on an organization called "Sisters in Crime" that has a monthly contest to win \$1000.00 for new books. We will be looking into entering for a chance to win.

Robert Arcand made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Arthur Vidro. The meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.