

Trustee Meeting, Wednesday, January 21, 2015

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm.

Roll Call

Present: Mary Vidro, Arthur Vidro and Sean Magee, also present Library Director Michael Grace and secretary Marta Smith.

Secretary's Report

The report was read and Mary Vidro made the motion to accept it, seconded by Arthur Vidro and passed.

Treasurer's Report

Read and Arthur Vidro asked for the date to be corrected. Mary Vidro made the motion to accept it with the date change, seconded by Arthur Vidro and passed.

Old Business

At the last meeting Michael Grace said that he would bring specs and prices for new microfilm machines to compare for price and quality so a decision could be made about replacing the one we currently have which is beginning to fail. He brought two that would be what we need-one with more bells and whistles and one very basic model. There was also something called a "Powerscan Productivity Suite" which could be added to either one. Michael Grace pointed out the differences and recommended purchasing the less expensive model and adding the Powerscan productivity suite which would enable the less expensive model to do everything we need it to do. The cost of the more expensive model is \$9,047.00 and the less expensive model is \$6,500. Adding the software package (powerscan productivity suite) would increase the price to \$7,200-which is his recommendation. Before buying either one he will arrange a demonstration of the two models to be held for staff and trustees. After a decision is made the price would be shared between the trustees and the Friends group.

New Business

The wireless internet requiring a password is now up and running. Patrons have to log in using their library card number and non-residents can log in using a temporary "guest pass". The new system of using a number to log in will allow us to track wireless stats and also to block people who owe books and or fines from signing on to the internet-this usually results in books being returned and fines being paid.

Arthur Vidro asked about ways to increase our book sale profits. He suggested combining it with another event to make it more successful. Michael Grace explained how we used to hold it on the same day as the Chili Cook-off until the parks and recreation department moved the location which impacted foot traffic and sales. He suggested possibly taking a booth at the farmer's market to sell books.

Librarian's Report

The year ended on a high note with patrons checking out 8,406 items during December. The average for December is slightly over 8,000. There were over 5300 patron visits to the library during the month. 118 items were loaned to other libraries through interlibrary loan and 522 new items were added to the collection. E-book usage continues to increase with 108 e-books checked out during December. 199 downloadable books were also checked out. 37 new patrons signed up for library cards. Patrons used 8866 computer sessions during the month for a total of 675 hours of computer usage.

In 2014 patrons checked out 101,167 items. Although this number is below the average for the last 10 years (109,900) it demonstrates a strong and continuing need for quality library services in Claremont. E-book usage has continued to grow with over 1700 e-books checked out from our downloadable books consortium. While growing, e-book usage still accounts for less than 2 percent of the library's circulation. Downloadable

audio book usage topped 2,200 in 2014 making up 46 percent of audio book usage for the year. Of the services we provide we are especially proud of the impact we have on the development of reading skill in children. To this end we checked out over 34,000 children's books to Claremont's young readers during 2014.

The library also provided the citizens with unique and educational programming during the year. Marina Forbes returned to speak and lead a workshop on Russian art. Ben Kilham, the Bear Whisperer, again gave us a fascinating insight into the behavior of black bears. We enjoyed the music and stories of "Two Old Friends" who made the connections between Celtic music and American country music. And, as always, the library presented a variety of authors and poets who spoke about their books and shared their stories.

Children's programming was very well attended in 2014 due in part to the extremely rich and varied activities and performances offered. Our Summer Reading Program, "Fizz, Boom, Read" offered music, storytelling, games, and science demonstrations Throughout the year we continued to offer story times and craft programs designed to instill in children a love of books and reading.

2014 was a very busy year for the library as we celebrated Claremont's 250th anniversary with a wide range of programs seeking to highlight the contemporary and historical connections between Claremont and the world. Our mission in putting together this series was not merely to celebrate the passing of 250 years but to celebrate Claremont itself: its history, its people, its place in the world. We began in January by reintroducing to Claremont Barbara Ann Cochran who was born in Claremont and won a gold medal in slalom at the 1972 Winter Olympics. Our series continued with former Claremonters and Stevens High School graduates Wes McNair and Cormac McCarthy. McNair, Poet Laureate of Maine and winner of the Robert Frost prize has written numerous books of poetry heavily influenced by his New England roots. McCarthy, a renowned folk singer, returned to Claremont to perform onstage at the Claremont Opera House where he delighted the audience with his music and stories of being a teenager in Claremont.

Our series also looked back over time into Claremont's past with a program about Claremont's connections to the founding of Vermont's Norwich University. We completed the circle by hosting the Norwich University Band and precision drill team at the Opera House. Another program celebrated the life and career of Claremont born author Constance Fenimore Woolson who was one of the most widely read American women authors of the 19th century. Rounding out the series were four presentations by Colin Sanborn on various aspects of Claremont's history from tavern life in early Claremont to agriculture and industrial development. The library also hosted a 250th anniversary themed essay contest and two reading programs that featured Claremont themes and authors. The library capped the celebration with a bang, decorating the exterior of the building in flags and bunting in a style recalling the decorations exhibited during Claremont's 150th anniversary celebration in 1914.

Mary Vidro made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Sean Magee. The meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 18, 2015.