



Board of Library Trustees

April 3, 2014 – 2:30 p.m. – **Minutes**
New Bedford Main Public Library, 613 Pleasant Street

The Board of Library Trustees met on April 3 2014, 2:30 PM,
in the Trustees Room of the Main Library. This is a follow-up meeting to the March 25 meeting.

Present: Carl Cruz, Vice-Chair
The Very Reverend Father Constantine Bebis
Lee Blake
Elsie R. Fraga
Helen Rogers
Dr. John Fletcher
Diana Henry
Rev. Kevin Harrington
Dr. Silva
Geoffrey Dickinson, Acting Director
Karen Stefanik, Acting Head of Branches

Excused: Mayor Jon Mitchell

Called to order: Mr. Cruz called the meeting to order at 2:30pm.

This meeting is a follow-up to the March Trustees meeting to discuss the budget, staffing issues, and the teen disciplinary issues at Howland-Green.

Disciplinary Issues

The issue with the unruly teens at Howland-Green really applies to all locations, as all the libraries have unruly patrons. As currently written, the Library's Acceptable Use Policy already gives staff the ability to expel patrons for a certain time frame, but it is not usually enforced. Mr. Dickinson spoke to Officer Maguire about this punitive portion of the Acceptable Use Policy. Officer Maguire suggested that staff call the police to expel the person. The police can get the patron's name and information, and staff can fill out an official form banning that person from the Library for a certain period of time, whether it is for one day, one week or longer. The information about appealing the decision would also be on the form. Dr. Silva wondered how quickly police would come when called, and Mr. Cruz suggested that the Library speak to the heads of the police stations to stress the difficulty of the situation to make sure the police respond promptly. Ms. Blake suggested that the community policing unit should meet with the Trustees. Ms. Henry said that the policy should be spelled out and enforced equally across all the libraries. Ms. Blake said that the New York library has "Three strikes and you're out" signs.

Mr. Cruz suggested that Mr. Easton see if there are seminars for handling unruly teens. If the teens who are acting out are more involved in the Teen Room, they might be less likely to act out, so it might help to ask those teens to be on the Teen Advisory Board, or to get their input on programming ideas. The Mayor should be made aware of these problems.

Staffing Issues

The libraries are very short-staffed at the moment, with part-time and branch manager positions open at Lawler and Casa da Saudade, and the Head of Special Collections now open. The Personnel Committee has interviewed candidates for the Casa management position, and has found a promising candidate who speaks Portuguese. This person would need a waiver as she does not live in New Bedford. Rev. Bebis made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fletcher, to offer this person employment and it was passed unanimously. The next step is to have this person meet with Mr. Dickinson, before the City's Personnel department offers her the position. As they interview for the Casa position, the Personnel Committee is also keeping an eye out for candidates for the Lawler management position.

Budget

Mr. Dickinson discussed the budget narrative, which the City requires for the FY 15 budget. This narrative helps the city councilors understand what each department does. Mr. Dickinson is hoping to get some new positions added, including an Administrative Assistant, a Head of Children's, and security personnel.

A replacement name on the Board of Trustees for Dr. Silva has been sent in, but she will not be available for the May meeting.

The painting of the Art Room is completed/

Next Meeting:

April 28 at 3:30pm.

Rev. Bebis made a motion to adjourn, it was seconded by Mrs. Frage and passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned.