

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 7, 2024, 6:00 PM
Blanchard Room

In Attendance: Todd Fabian, Library Director; Jeremy Clemans; Chris Casco, Charles O'Leary- Vice Chair; Norm Kinsler, Chair; Cellie Clark-Keane

- N. Kinsler called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- The first agenda item was to approve the minutes of the meeting held on September 7, 2024. By motion of J. Clemans and seconded by C. Casco, the board adopted the minutes by unanimous vote. There was a correction to the July minutes to change N. Kinsler's name misspelled in the minutes as Kinser.
- Public Comment: None.
- Library Director's Report- T. Fabian said that the library applied for and received Reen Grant Award money for library items including: mobile partitions, sensory tables for kids, a converter to transfer old home videos to updated media formats, sign holders, book cases, and a small table for the circulation desk among other useful items. He is researching other potential trust fund purchases for this year in case they can help with RFID transition. He submitted the CPL Foundation grant application for 2025. He will report on the progress at the November trustee meeting. We are trying to expand the museum pass program to add new museums in the Boston area. The library saved \$33,000 for patrons in passes through this program. The library pays only about 10 percent of the actual cost. This is a significant public benefit. The biggest cost savings for patrons is for the

Boston Aquarium. Each pass is unique in terms of what it offers. There are also many museums in New Hampshire involved in this program. The CPL Foundation funds some of these passes for the more expensive tickets.

The HVAC system is nearing the end of its useful life. He met with city manager and general services on replacement, which is untenable because replacement would entail not having air conditioning next summer due to the length of the project. A remediation project will be done rather than replacement at this time. If a new facility is not likely in 2 to 3 years, an alternative plan for the HVAC system will be done. AC is the priority at this time. The system now fluctuates with humidity levels which is not good for printed materials. The AC was first installed around the year 2000.

City departments are meeting with city council members informally to start to discuss CIP needs of the facility and whether a new building is preferable to renovating. New Hampshire has not prioritized material preservation in the past, but is focusing more on preservation going forward. Library shelving replacement is another ongoing project. We may have to replace a few shelves at a time if we can find a suitable replacement for the aging wooden shelves. Such projects are typically done in the winter. Replacement needs to be done before cracking occurs, and when it starts, it spreads throughout the shelves. Full shelving replacement is very expensive.

The CPL did not prevail on the library card sign up competition between libraries in the state. The ebikes are still in use. They went to an event recently at the McAuliffe Planetarium and will go to a park this week. The Penacook

branch is nearing its opening. The move in date should be soon. There will be an opening ceremony but it may not be until spring.

- CPL Foundation update. Concord Reads is being worked on. An author and publicist have been consulted but costs are high to secure an author's appearance. They are carefully considering the book selection for next year. Since COVID, the author fee is approximately \$5000 for the range of authors we typically bring in. The library has never charged for an author event in order to defray the cost. The library practice is to never charge for events. Trustee members will continue to rotate attending their meetings as a guest. If a member is interested they may attend but should let T. Fabian know in advance.
- New business- none.
- Old business- none.
- Adjournment by motion of N. Kinsler, seconded by J. Clemans, and adopted by unanimous vote.

Next meeting: November 4, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.