

## CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Monday, February 5, 2024, 6:00 PM

Shakespeare Room

In Attendance: Library Director Todd Fabian, Jeremy Clemans, Chris Casco, Ceillie Clark-Keane, Fatawu Issah, Norm Kinsler, Michelle Marino, Charles O'Leary

1. J. Clemans calls the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
2. Accept minutes of the January 8, 2024 Monthly Meeting - J. Clemans motions to accept, N. Kinsler seconds; All are in favor.
3. Public Comment
  - None
4. Library Director's Report and Monthly Update
  - The CPL elevator and auditorium chair lift are currently having issues. Elevator technicians were at the library multiple times trying to fix the problem. The ADA lift that goes into the auditorium downstairs is also having electrical issues. Technicians are waiting on parts to fix the issue. If the lift is not operational soon, programming will stop in that space. Another location may be used for programming that is usually in the auditorium.
  - The entryway into the auditorium may need to be renovated as the current lift is not made anymore and may not be able to be repaired.
  - The Director will send the Trustees a note when the lift is operational again.
  - Concord Community Programs and Social Services Guide is updated a few times a year. The patrons coming into the library can utilize the listed resources to seek assistance in several areas such as mental health,

homelessness, etc. The librarians are doing much more frontline social work compared to ten years ago. Assisting patrons who may be in need of social welfare assistance has been a challenge.

- J. Clemans asked if there is a possibility of hiring a social worker onto the library's staff. The Director stated that the police have a social worker that the library can utilize when needed.
- The community could be better served if there were 24-hour restrooms or showers downtown. This is a need that needs to be addressed as bathroom use is having an impact on the library.
- J. Clemans suggests having a conversation with the city regarding available restrooms. C. O'Leary suggests inquiring about when the bathrooms on the first-floor annex of the state house are open to the public.
- The Director is currently involved in preparing the library's next budget. The Director anticipates sending the initial budget request along to City Administration. There was a meeting today about staffing the Penacook branch and how the Penacook branch library can work with Concord Parks & Recreation to open the new facility this fall. We will see down the road what the City Council wants to do in terms of an end-date for the old Penacook branch facility. Things are going well with the construction of the new library space. Staffing will be known in a few months; items will be ordered in the summer and everything will hopefully be ready to go in the fall. Permanent furniture will be in the space, just like in the Heights

branch. Items will be rolled into the storage room when Parks & Recreation is using the space. It will be a very versatile setup.

- J. Clemans asked the Director how the library decides what items to order for the new Penacook Branch. The Director stated that the library will focus on meeting the needs of the branch's primary users first, then evaluate and send items over from the main branch. The Director anticipates that there will be a large juvenile, teen, and senior presence. There should be a lot of walk-in traffic; predicting that it will become busy very quickly once it opens.
- The Director will be submitting a plan to City Administration as to what he would like to do regarding staffing at the Penacook Branch. Ultimately, it will be up to the City Council to approve and fund the Director's staffing request. Full time staff is needed.

#### 5. The CPL Foundation Update

- There was a Concord Reads meeting.
- The author-speaking event is scheduled for mid-May.
- The book title will go public in a few weeks.
- The mayor is supposed to attend the Foundation's February meeting. The Director will let us know as he learns more.

#### 6. New Business

- None

#### 7. Old Business

- None

8. Next meeting March 4, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.
9. C. Casco motions to adjourn at 6:38 p.m., J. Clemans seconds; All are in favor.