

Newport Public Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 16, 2011

Present: Curt Fewkes, Cindy McConnell, Ted Smith, Sharon Beardsley, Carol Ruggeri, Chip Norman, Richard Beemer

President Carol Ruggeri called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m.

Minutes: It was moved by Curt Fewkes and seconded by Cindy McConnell that minutes of the previous meeting be approved; the motion passed by a voice vote.

Introduction of Richard Beemer: Richard Beemer will be acting as the City Council Liaison to the Library Board.

Librarian's Report: Ted Smith handed out the Librarian's Report and several graphs. He noted that the library staff is complete for the first time in several months, with the addition of Gwen Green and Linda Annable. Negotiations with CRSN are still in progress and will continue through June. Cindy McConnell summarized the purpose of the negotiations for the benefit of Richard Beemer.

Circulation numbers were discussed. Current year/past year comparisons are now valid, as last year's numbers were no longer inflated by Driftwood's closure. Ted Smith pointed out the strong showing in each age category of card holders, including almost 1000 cardholders of less than 10 years of age.

The Board discussed eBooks, which currently account for 25% of downloads from the library's Overdrive service. Sharon Beardsley asked about the Harper Collins limited licensing issue and Ted Smith said no other publishers are currently following suit but that it's a very fluid field. He said only 2 to 3% of the population currently uses eBooks.

Ted Smith is creating a flat budget to present to the Budget Committee May 3rd.

Other Business:

- Sharon Beardsley presented the Newport Reads posters created by Sheryl Eldridge, pointing out the times and dates for upcoming events. She said Sheryl did a beautiful job.
- The next Library Board Meeting will be on May 18th, 2011. The next Library Foundation Board Meeting will be on April 20th, 2011.

President Carol Ruggeri adjourned the meeting at 5:45 p.m.