

Newport Public Library Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2011

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

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

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

Newport Reads Discussion: Sharon Beardsley reported a great turnout for Author's night, when Kim Stafford spoke at the Community College. The panel discussion that took place at the library had a lower, but still good, attendance. Ted Smith noted attendance was 31 at that event.

Sharon Beardsley said there was some dissatisfaction among attendees about the focus of the panel discussion, which was advertised as "The Courage of Their Convictions." The actual panel discussion wandered away from that toward remembrances of Vietnam. She suggested that the Committee plan more carefully next year, so that more Board members are able to attend the event and so the discussion group better understands what is expected of them.

Sharon also said that the book had been a risky selection, and that the Newport Reads Committee might have been too large. Curt Fewkes suggested that the number of community participants could be limited next year. Cindy McConnell mentioned she had also heard about dissatisfaction with the panel, and agreed that the Committee should be smaller next year and more heavily loaded with library people. Ted Smith said he would put discussion of these issues on the Foundation meeting agenda for the June retreat. He mentioned the popularity of the Staff Picks table at the library and suggested having library staff generate some suggestions for the Newport Reads Committee, based on Foundation guidelines.

Librarian's Report: Ted Smith handed out the Librarian's Report and several graphs. He mentioned that circulation numbers are holding well, with 23,000 items circulating from Newport plus 2500 items sent through the courier system.

He said the Coastal Resource Sharing Network met today, and that current members had affirmed their intentions to continue making resource sharing a priority when CRSN is disbanded and replaced with a new network. He plans to meet with the City Council in June, and then have another meeting with CRSN. He stated that everyone who wants to be a part of the new network will get in, and it will be cheaper. Sharon Beardsley noted how important it is to the community to continue sharing, especially with smaller libraries.

Other Business:

- Carol Ruggeri asked how the City Budget Meeting was progressing. Ted Smith replied that there was a lot of appreciation for the library, and that the Meeting should be completed in three days.

President Carol Ruggeri adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.