

Newport Public Library Board Meeting
Wednesday
March 17, 2010, 5:00 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Sharon Beardsley, Cindy McConnell, Chip Norman, Terry Obteshka, Carol Ruggeri, Ted Smith.

Sharon Beardsley called the meeting to order at 5:15.

Minutes: It was moved and seconded that minutes of the January board meeting be approved; the motion carried by voice vote.

Librarian's Report: Ted Smith provided board members a print copy of the Librarian's Report. He included in the report the budget he will propose for the next fiscal year, which is \$5,000 less than last year's budget, and which, he says, may be cut further in the city's budget process. Smith said the report defines certain demographic trends and service needs for the future. He described some of the primary library services outside the obvious circulation of materials as programming and outreach services for adults and for young people. Smith said that the new e-book download service through Library to Go offers 6,000 titles, and that these check out for 21 days. More titles are available free through Google. He said that 350 books will fit on an e-book reader.

Smith said that issues facing the library in the future are physical space to house the growing collection and the growing numbers of library users; the need to keep current with changing technologies, and the need to provide formats that appeal to all patrons.

Beardsley asked whether staff pursuing higher education will have the opportunities for advancement that they need, and Smith allowed that that may not happen this year, because the budget is so tight, but it is among his goals for the library. Obteshka agreed that the budget process this year will likely be painful. Smith said that he will know more about the budget at the next board meeting.

Beardsley asked about the need for a half-time IT person which Smith had mentioned in his report, and Smith replied that with the library's heavy use of technology, and with the plans to implement the RFID technology, the library would benefit from adding such a position, and it would free up the city's IT staff.

Other Business: Sharon Beardsley showed board members the article from the 'News-Times' about the Newport Reads 2010 programs. She also remarked on the column Bobbie Lippmann wrote about Newport Reads. The board expressed their appreciation of Sheryl Eldridge's work on the poster for Newport Reads 2010, and Beardsley said that at the March 30 meeting the Newport Reads 2010 Committee will figure out where they can put more posters, and generally put finishing touches on the details of programs.

Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha