

Northern Onondaga Public Library
Monthly Board Meeting
March 21, 2011

Attending: Rob Bick, Pat Madigan, Shelley Tafel, Bob Lalley, Frank Laifer, Linda Parise, and Library Director, Kate McCaffrey.

Absent: Pat Bragman, Lynda Holbrook Barb Irwin, Kate Kuryla, Alice Lipovsky and Randy Lacelle. (*lack of quorum*)

Guests: Lynne Yackel, Bill Hastings, Meg Backus, Bob Manning (OCPL Board)
Raechel Altman, Elizabeth Gall (Syracuse University iSchool students)
Jon DeWolf (Eagle Scouts).

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Introduction of NOPL's new Assistant Director , Bill Hastings. Bill brings a great deal of knowledge and experience with libraries and computers to the NOPL team. He was chosen from a very impressive collection of candidates. There will be a reception for Bill next Wednesday, March 30th, 6-8 pm at the North Syracuse Library.

Presentation by Rachel Altman proposing that we make the piano in the North Syracuse Community Room available to individuals who take lessons, or play, but have no piano available in their home. The piano could be reserved and "checked out" for on-site use when the room is free.

Presentation by Elizabeth Gall proposing that the Cicero Library be a drop-off site the Community Supported Agriculture Program (CSA). Consumers make arrangements to purchase (in advance) a portion of a local farmer's produce, which is dropped off at the library. The proposed pole barn will have an awning and might be an ideal location for the drop off. Participants would need to respect the requirement that they pick up their produce on the day it is dropped off.

Presentation by John DeWolf proposing to raise money and build a walkway and seating areas around the Library Farm garden. It would be handicapped accessible and would provide a pleasant resting place for our gardeners. Rob and Kate will look into the building permit from the Town of Cicero and also insurance responsibilities for this project before its final approval.

President

- A meeting is scheduled for some time next week on the Pole Barn. We should have a proposal written up by our next meeting to present to the board.

Vice President – No Report

Treasurer

- Abstract #3 discussed by the board.
- We have received our Town of Clay tax revenue (\$872,092.05) and should have Cicero's by the end of this week. We also received a check for \$13,704 from New York State (from 2010).
- We are on target with the budget.

Corresponding Secretary – None

Trustee Reports – None

Director Report

Utica National Insurance is handling a **claim for medical expenses** from a woman who fell on the sidewalk at the North Syracuse Library on February 11th.

As part of a purge of inactive records, NOPL cardholders who (a) have not used their card in three years, and (b) have less than ten dollars in charges have been deleted from the patron database. “Active” patrons have checked things out *or* used their card to access resources online (Freegal, databases, Overdrive) or to use the computers at the North Syracuse Library. As a result of the purge the number of **registered borrowers for NOPL** went from 37,975 to 23,331.

On March 3rd the **Central New York Women in Leadership** group held an event to celebrate Women’s History Month. Cicero Town Supervisor Judy Boyke presented me with a book for the library’s collection: *Not One Damsel in Distress: World Folktales for Strong Girls* by Jane Yolen.

We are into our third month with the **new maintenance service** (Cleantec), and so far things are going smoothly. Cleantec staff work as a team, going to each library in the morning before opening. We received inspection reports which we reviewed prior to meeting with representatives from the company. Pete’s responsibilities with the new company include inspecting all of their sites, and staff training.

The OCPL Foundation wants to put the bookmobile back on the road to promote libraries and literacy. The project is called “**Library to Go**”:

- A new van, designed to be recognizable at a distance, with Internet access
- Space for collections that would be pulled for specific events
- All OCPL part-time staff – tentatively a driver, librarian, page. If we scheduled the van we could include a NOPL staff member

The idea is to establish a stronger presence in our communities by bringing the library to places and events. Libraries will be able to book the van for special events like the family festivals in Brewerton and North Syracuse, or for visits to senior centers or daycare centers for onsite story hours.

Strategic Plan – We have not set a date to meet.

Legislative

We met with our Assemblyman, Don Miller, expressing concerns over State Funding. We are hoping that they will increase our funding as they see that Libraries provide a great deal to the public. While NOPL itself is fairly secure with its own funding, the system (OCPL) is in great risk. If the system goes down, we would then have to pay them as a vendor to provide services for us, so will see an impact on our operating budget as a result.

Bob Manning (OCPL)

OCPL has two major sources of funding-- the County and State. Both of these budgets have been cut, and further cuts are expected in the future. OCPL director and trustees met with the head of NY library Association and others to discuss alternative funding models. They have decided to establish a Citizen's Committee to sort through strategies on other funding alternatives. Al Stirpe has been asked to participate.

Audit/Finance – No report

Old Business – None

New Business

Annual Report to the Community-- Distributed a draft to the board. This report will be available on the NOPL website. There was a recommendation that a single page with highlights be printed and distributed to NOPL taxpayers.

Brewerton construction project- We would like to consider creating an entrance to the Community Room from the library in order to increase usable space in the library. One possibility is using it as a reading area. Another is to divide the space in order to designate an area for computer training. State construction funds may be available to support the project.

Staff Development Day – June 17th – We would like to open the libraries 2:00 pm on Friday, June 17th to allow all staff to attend staff development day from 9 to 1. The main topic will be adopting a Modified Dewey System for our non-fiction collections. The intent is to make them more browser-friendly in the style of a bookstore. (Resolution to be voted on at April meeting due to lack of quorum).

Meeting Adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Next meeting will be Monday, April 18th, at the North Syracuse Library.

Respectfully by,

Marianne Vaughn