

Astoria Library Board Meeting

Astoria Public Library

February 28, 2017 [0:13]

5:30 pm.

Present: Library Board members Kate Summers, David Oser, and Chris Womack. Staff Library Director Jimmy Pearson.

Excused: Susan Stein and Kimberley Chaput.

Call to Order: Chair Kate Summers called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The notes of January 24, 2017 were approved as presented.

Board Reports:

Chris Womack reported that he has spoken to several library patrons who have commented recently about the increase in homeless people and transients at the library who did not seem to be there to read or use the library's services. He described an incident that occurred in the mezzanine involving his 13-year old daughter, which made her quite uncomfortable. He and others wondered if the increase in transients could be the result of changes to library policies or the weather.

Director Pearson confirmed the only policy change has been that no food is allowed in the library. This new policy was implemented two weeks ago. He believed the increase in transients at the library could be due to weather. He did excuse two people from the library when they began to argue loudly. He stated he would continue to ban people as needed. He also noted that people are not allowed to sleep in the library and the mezzanine area is monitored. The Library Usage Policy informs behavior, but there is nothing that requires people to be reading while they are in the library.

The Board and Staff briefly discussed how to ensure patrons' comfort while remaining tolerant. Chair Summers noted how perceptions of homeless people complicate this issue. Director Pearson confirmed that Staff had protocol to follow if they ever needed to call police. However, Staff does a great job enforcing library behavior as problems arise. He explained how he has handled different types of issues in the past and noted the new rule prohibiting food was in response to complaints from library patrons and Staff.

The Board and Staff briefly discussed efforts to get the water fountain working again.

Library Director's Report:

Director Pearson announced that the library received an appreciation award from the school district and briefly shared a story about a 4 year old who wanted to know what was in the basement. His Director's report was as follows:

- Library Facilities: The lollipop lights at the front of the building are now working, and he is looking into having the restrooms re-grouted and the Flag Room carpet professionally cleaned.
 - He detailed plans to display artwork, reconfigure the furniture, and display new flyers for library programs. He found photographs from 1954 in the basement that inspired the new displays and new furniture configurations. He hoped the rotating displays would encourage conversation in the community about the upcoming renovation.
- Library Programs: Family Story Time will be one Saturday a month at 10:30 am.
- IT Update: [PC Rez](#) is working great and Staff has been able to issue many new library cards.
 - The computers are full all day, every day.
 - He is working with iFocus to get a new printer.
- Director's Activities: He attended the legislative day at the Capital and met Senator Betsy Johnson, the State Librarian, and the State Law Librarian.
 - He also attended his first Oregon Library Director's meeting, which included discussions on homeless in the library and information literacy.

- He noted that 14,000 archived items were never transferred to the library's new software system and shared his ideas for displaying a few items, some of which are from the 1800s.

Update on ALFA Activities:

Director Pearson said he has asked ALFA to cover the cost of cleaning two of the mid-century Danish chairs in the reading room. They are worth about \$2,000 each and cleaning will cost about \$300. He hoped that having a couple of them cleaned up would inspire conversation about the set of 12 chairs, some of which have memorial plaques on them. He also reported that ALFA has elected new officers.

Update on Foundation:

David Oser reported the next [Foundation](#) meeting is on Tuesday, March 7th at 254 W. Irving at 5:30 pm. This meeting will include a discussion about their fundraising goal, which will be presented to the City. He added that Ami Kreider is now working for the Foundation part time.

Chair Summers said she's been asking the Foundation Board President about setting things up to receive donations.

New Business:

Item 8(a): Teen Space Policy

Director Pearson said he and Staff have noticed that parents do not feel comfortable allowing their teens in the teen area. He asked the Board for feedback on a policy restricting non-teens from sitting in the area unless they are accompanied by a teen. Adults would be allowed to browse the collections, but not sit in the teen space.

Chair Summers supported the policy because teens are minors and the mezzanine area is secluded. Mr. Womack also supported the policy. He believed that once the policy becomes known, more teens would use the area.

Director Pearson noted he might spend a small amount from the Endowment Fund to upgrade the teen space a bit. He also plans to form a teen council tasked with making decisions about the teen space. The entire mezzanine area can be monitored from the circulation area via security video. He could implement the new policy immediately.

Mr. Oser believed the policy was a great idea. However, he was concerned that the mezzanine was not accessible to people with disabilities. Director Pearson explained Staff considered several locations for the teen area. He planned to request funds during the budgeting process for automated doors, and as part of the renovation if possible to keep everything on one level and maybe use the mezzanine for a quiet study area.

Director Pearson said to implement the new policy, signs would be placed at various locations and staff would monitor the area.

Old Business: There was none.

Public Comments: There were none.

Items for Next Meeting's Agenda: The March meeting has been rescheduled to April 4, 2017, due to Spring Break. The regular April meeting will be held on April 25, 2017.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, Inc.