

Emma L. Andrews Library and Community Center Commission Meeting April 18, 2013

Commission members present: Susan Chase (chair), Peter Lombardi, Donna Conway, Aine Greaney (acting secretary)

Commission members absent: Elizabeth Valeriani (secretary), Kristin Sherman

Meeting was convened at 5:30 p.m.

1. Old Business:

(A) Peter Lombardi's report on rental apartment renovations

June 1 remains the deadline for completion of renovation work and installation of new tenant.

The kitchen top cabinets have now been installed, and installation of matching bottom cabinets seems likely, pending exact budget.

The City is also assessing costs for a compact washer-dryer unit, which will depend on cabinet layout.

Affordable housing: Peter shared the City's discussion on having the apartment included in the City's pool of affordable housing units. "Affordability" is determined by the income level of the tenant(s), and there are set guidelines re: number of tenants and level of corresponding household income. This would not dramatically alter the proposed monthly rental income, but would require some steps to qualify the apartment as "affordable." The City Planning Office is currently researching whether the status change requires (1) A deed restriction or (2) a LIP (low income property) application to the State.

While this is in progress, the tenant can still live there. If income eligible, he or she can be among those with possible eligibility.

(B) Exterior Painting of the Emma Andrews Building

This is slated for the second week of May. Peter will double-check with Mike Bartlett on the date.

2. New Business

Librarian's report: Susan Chase reported on the goals set at the Association's Annual Meeting. All programming will center around the dual goals of building literacy and community.

- (1) **"Little Free Libraries":** The Emma would construct and provide three mini libraries to 3 elder housing facilities within the greater Newburyport area: Horton Terrace, Heritage House and Newbury Village. The small libraries would include adult and children's books, thus encouraging inter-generational or grandparent-child reading.

- (C) **Small collections of diversity-themed books and three related book-discussion groups:** Teens, tweens and adults' book groups. We have received \$450 in startup funds from the City Commission

for Diversity and Tolerance for this project. These curated collections would later be available for other city groups for off-site book group programs and related discussions.

Grant report: Aine Greaney reported on the successful funding by the Commission for Diversity and Tolerance. Other funding opportunities being applied for: The Provident Bank mini-grants (to fund the Little Free Libraries project); Re-application to Target Early Childhood Reading Grant (to fund the story hours); and the National Storytelling Network (to fund a possible oral storytelling project).

Program report: Donna Conway reported on the following planned events:

1. Preservation Week, May 11th, “Women in History” Suzanne deWitt will do presentations on Emma Andrews and the history of the library.
2. NHS Poetry Slam, May 5th, 3:00 p.m. The Poetry Soup Poetry Slam Team will perform at the Library
3. The author event for April 18 has been re-scheduled.

There are many summertime events planned, including the plant sale, the yard sale and others.

Related to programming: Peter Lombardi will check with the City insurance agent if groups who use the library outside of open lending hours—including volunteers—should sign an agreement that clearly outlines the terms of building usage and liability.

Susan Chase proposed adjournment of the meeting. Aine Greaney seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.