

Emma L. Andrews Library and Community Center

Regular meeting of the commission

January 16, 2014

Chair Aine Greaney called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Members Susan Chase, Donna Conway, and Secretary Elizabeth Valeriani were present.

Minutes of the November 2013 were accepted with a change from “adopt” the social media policy to “adapt” the social media policy of the city of Newburyport. The motion was moved by Donna Conway and seconded by Susan Chase.

Tom, local historian, and Nel Horth suggested that since the library building has historic significance, it would be appropriate to place a sign explaining that history on the building. The commission agreed with the Horth’s suggestion. Mr. Horth thought that Ghlee Woodworth might be able to provide wording. The members also discussed the condition of the old Andrews Branch sign and various ways to make use of it. Nothing was decided.

Mike Bartlett reported that the ramp project is on track with several possibilities being considered for the railings. The following tentative figures for materials costs were presented. Wooden railings for \$11,500.00, metal prefab railings for \$19,375.00. Wilson Welding came with a ball park figure of \$15,000.00. After all plans are completed, the final proposal will go to the city council before the end of February. Members of the commission considered wooden railings could be more expensive in the long term because they would need to be painted and replaced more often than metal railings.

Mr. Bartlett reported that the new gas furnace is doing well, and that next Step Living continues to send money from signups at the library. He is pursuing changing the name on the library bill from “Library Lofts” to “Emma Andrews Library and Community Center”.

The commission has suggestions for capital improvements which they will present at the next meeting.

The association reported that the public continues to use the building for ongoing group meeting and special events. Scouts, story hours, toddler and tween activities for children are well attended. Tweens are involved in reading to younger children. Yoga for children may be offered. For adults, yoga, knitting and several writers groups continue. Author evenings are very popular. The first Souper Saturday-hot soup for cool summer children’s programs takes place on Saturday January 25. Port City Sandwich will generously donate soup. The association offers soup, bread, beverage and dessert for a suggested donation of \$5.00.

Donna Conway moved that the commission require a sign in system to be implemented. Susan Chase seconded and motion passed. Donna Conway will create a form.

On a motion by Donna Conway, seconded by Susan Chase the meeting adjourned. The next meeting will be on February 20, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Valeriani

Secretary