

Draft Unapproved minutes

Emma L. Andrews Lending Library and Community Center
Regular Meeting of the Commission
November 15, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 5:30PM. In the absence of Chair Susan Chase, Vice-chair Aine Greaney presided. Other members present were: Elizabeth Valeriani and Kristin Sherman. Donna Conway was absent.

On a motion by Kristin Sherman, seconded by Elizabeth Valeriani minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously accepted.

Peter Lombardi reported that the SHINE program is having problems with the computer at the Emma Andrews Library and that access to the building is also a problem, Although scheduling issues appear to be resolved, the SHINE counselors will not be using this facility until further notice. Members expressed eagerness to help speed their return in any way possible.

Concerning the second floor apartment, Mr. Lombardi reported that he is awaiting a state ethics commission ruling about a price reduction from a vendor. We may need to find another vendor depending on the decision. Deleading was not bid at prevailing wage which is at a rate of \$45.00 to \$60.00 dollars an hour. The previous estimate that we received was about \$8200.00. The new quote which is expected in a week will undoubtedly be higher. The mayor will go to the city council for the balance. Mr. Lombardi questioned whether the building fund money could be used for this purpose. Members will go to the Emma L. Andrews Association for clarification. Work on the exterior deleading includes the bulkhead and the walls to a height of five feet.

American Renaissance will do a partial refinishing of the apartment floors for \$600.00. The overheating of the gas burner that serves the library has been fixed for between \$600.00 and \$700.00.

Event Chair Donna Conway is continuing the four weekly story hours, and the Tween Program. The Brown School walking field trips are a success again with 150 children coming here for story craft and snack. The author series is well attended. Chair yoga donated by Chris Morton will continue through next spring. Watercolor classes, the memoir group and children's writers critique are ongoing. A holiday sing with Santa is in the works. Prizes will be awarded next week to the winners of the essay contest the essay contest for teens and seniors from Newburyport writing about identity was funded by a grant from the Diversity and Tolerance Commission. The writers will read from their essays and all present will be encouraged to share their thoughts.

Aine Greaney is continuing to research grants. We were unsuccessful in getting the grant from Merrimac Valley General Fund, but there are other funds that may fit our Tween program. There is a grant for improving public gardens and landscaping. The Diversity and Tolerance Grant was used to sponsor the writing contest.

Kristin Sherman questioned the start date for our website. Members agreed that we do not need to wait for a new computer to do this.

Suzanne De Witt presented her plans for living history presentations making history coexist with modern times. She would play Emma Andrews who would be present to talk to people. Mrs. Valeriani suggested that it would be appropriate to do this at the grand opening when the ramp is finished and at other milestones. Ms. DeWitt says that grants are available for this type of presentation.

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM with the next meeting date to be determined later due to the holidays.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth W. Valeriani