

**Newburyport Public Library  
Board of Directors – Regular Meeting  
March 7, 2012**

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 5:15PM by Elizabeth Valeriani. Attending, in addition to Ms. Valeriani, were Board members James Connolly, Joseph Donnelly, Barbara Dowd, Kathy Carey, Robert Gould and Steven Moore. Also attending was Head Librarian and Recording Secretary Cynthia Diminture. Monica Blondin, Marcia Edson, Josiah Welch, Thomas O'Brien, and Mayor Donna Holaday were absent.

**Old Business:**

**Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the February 1, 2012 meeting were approved as written, on a motion by Ms. Dowd; seconded by Mr. Gould.

**FY13 Budget**

Ms. Diminture reported that the budget request was submitted to the Mayor prior to the February 9<sup>th</sup> deadline. The submission includes personnel increases to cover some step raises and a sick leave buyback for a retiring employee. Andrew Flanagan of the Mayor's office said that, going forward, all retirement settlements such as sick leave buyback will come from a "retirement stabilization" account rather than from individual department budgets. Most other items were level funded or had decreases. Ms. Diminture said that her budget hearing with the Mayor is scheduled for Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> and she promised to keep the Board apprised of the process.

**Reorganization Project**

Ms. Diminture told the Board that Shannon Alther of TMS Architects has been hired to work on the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> floor organization project. He has met twice with Ms. Diminture, Giselle Stevens and project manager Sarah Holden to discuss preliminary designs. A meeting was also held with the Reference Department staff to get input on the design/organization of the new desk and office.

## **Personnel Update**

Ms. Diminture provided personnel updates. Beth Pendak continues to recover from a serious illness and no date has been set for her return to work. She continues to be paid from a staff sick bank. Virginia Champi has retired and her vacant position was posted internally for AFSCME staff last Monday with an application deadline of March 9<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Diminture hopes to have the position filled by mid-April.

## **Problem Patron**

The patron whose library privileges were suspended for one month never returned to the library to retrieve the letter explaining her suspension. The Board discussed the more sensitive problem of a teen patron exhibiting problem behaviors. Ms. Diminture explained that she has been in contact with his parents regarding the situation. Suggestions were offered for means of assistance. Ms. Diminture will write a letter to the patron and his parents. The Board suggested that the Police Department be involved, if it becomes necessary.

## **Tuskegee Airmen Program**

Ms. Diminture reported on a program held on Monday, February 2<sup>th</sup>. The library and Newburyport Veterans' Services jointly hosted a visit and talk by Sergeant James Shepherd of the Tuskegee Airmen. Sgt. Shepherd drew a standing-room only crowd and the program was very well received. A high school student doing an independent study project on World War II veterans interviewed the speaker after the program.

## **Books in Bloom Friends' Event**

Ms. Diminture let the Board know about an upcoming Friends' fundraiser, to be held in cooperation with the Newburyport Horticultural Society. Books in Bloom will be held on Saturday, May 5<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30PM. Participants will select a book from a Friends' collection or one of their own choosing and will interpret the theme, character, plot, cover art, etc. into a floral display. Books and floral pieces will be on display in the Program Room and at various locations throughout the library. Ticket holders (\$25) will view the exhibits and enjoy food, drinks and music. Proceeds will be split between the two non-profit groups.

## **Fran Dalton Photo Exhibit**

Ms. Diminture updated the Board on the upcoming exhibit of a selection of Fran Dalton's photographs that have been donated to the Archival Center. An

exhibit/opening reception has been set for Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1-4PM in the Program room. The photos will remain on display through Tuesday, June 12<sup>th</sup>. Jessica Gill is working on the details with a small committee.

## **New Business:**

### **Teen Loft/Children's Room News**

Sign- up for session two of storytime will begin on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Children's Dept. will offer a family Ebookapalooza on Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. A new program will be offered for toddlers under 18 months of age, requested by parents to fill a gap between the library babies program and the Mother Goose program. The Teen Loft continues to be an active place. Ms. Diminture spoke highly of the "Money Talks" program offered during vacation week by Girls, Inc. of Seacoast MA. This informational workshop on financial literacy for girls ages 11-13 and their parents/guardians, brought in 7 families. From March 1-30, submissions will be accepted for the third annual Teen Poetry Contest, open to students in grades 7-12. An exciting upcoming program is the "Hunger Games" release party. Ms. Diminture told the Board that Teen Librarian Andrea Bunker has been selected as an award recipient from the Beacon Coalition for her positive contribution to young people. She will be honored at an awards ceremony at City Hall on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

### **January/February Statistics**

Ms. Diminture was happy to report that circulation statistics have rebounded with January and February total circulations of 28,047 and 27,461 respectively. February DVD circulation was the highest of the fiscal year at 5,738 adult and 1,770 children's. Use of the self-check stations is also increasing from 1,771(adult) and 1,977(children's) during the first month of use in November to 2,132(adult) and 2,537(children's) in February. February was also the busiest month of the year for museum pass usage.

### **FOL Book Sale**

Ms. Diminture reminded the Board that the Friends of the Library book sale (the 25<sup>th</sup>) will begin on Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> with a member preview sale. The sale will continue through Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 2PM. Volunteer sign-up will begin soon.

## **Other**

Ms. Diminture apprised the Board of other upcoming programs: Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> – Home Energy Saving workshop ; Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup> – Newburyport and the Civil War with local author William Hallett ; Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> – Second Annual Library Snapshot Day (or a day in the life of a public library) ; Thursday, April 12 – Ken Gloss of the Brattle Bookshop and his program “Is There Value in your Old and Rare Books?”

Ms. Diminture distributed copies of the library’s FY11 annual report which has been submitted to the City Clerk’s office.

## **March Calendar**

The March library calendar was reviewed. Ms. Diminture reviewed her meeting schedule for March.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6PM on a motion by Mr. Connolly; seconded by Ms. Carey. The next meeting will be held on April 4, 2012 at 5:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Diminture  
Recording Secretary