

# CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## Minutes

Monday, December 5, 2022

6:00 PM

**Library Blanchard Room**

In Attendance: Jeremy Clemans, Chris Casco, the Library Director-Todd Fabian, Michelle Marino, Charles O'Leary, Lisa Sands, Ali Sekou

1. J. Clemans calls the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

2. Accept Minutes of the November 7, 2022 monthly meeting - C. Casco motions to accept, L. Sands seconds. Minutes approved by unanimous voice vote.

### 3. Public Comments

- J. Clemans had a voicemail message on his phone from Mr. St Onge. J. Clemans was not able to respond due to the holidays. He is glad that Mr. St Onge sent his message via US Mail to the CPL Trustees.
- Although Mr. St. Onge was not in attendance, based upon his submitted letter to the Board, Mr. St Onge would like the magazines to be displayed in such a way as to make viewing the magazines easier (in a standard magazine rack). He would also like to be able to read the magazines without the magazine protectors/plastic jackets, as it would be easier to hold them in his hands. A copy of Mr. St. Onge's letter to the Board is being incorporated herein for the record.
- From Mr. St. Onge's letter, it would appear that he would like the magazines displayed in a way that one may find them displayed at a Barnes and Noble or gas station. However, from the Library's perspective, the current issues are used so frequently that without the protectors, the magazines would be more likely to get destroyed thereby limiting their availability to the public. The protectors do their job and the Library does not have any current plans for removing them.
- Three CPL magazines were brought into the meeting and the Trustees looked at the magazines with their protective covers on. It was decided that the Director will reach out to Mr. St Onge to get a clearer picture of what his concerns are.
- While the money is currently not in the budget for new magazine protectors, long-term the Director may conduct research into whether different, better magazine covers exist.
- In terms of how the magazines are currently displayed, the Director commented that there would need to be funds and space to replace the current magazine shelving, which CPL does not have.
- C. Casco suggested that space may be freed if the Library replaces the current shelving.
- J. Clemans requested that the Director reach out to Mr. St Onge and explain the Library's stance on his request and why it may or may not be a viable option in the future.
- A. Sekou asked about how the current space serves the patrons currently.

#### 4. Library Director's Report and Monthly Update

- CPL started putting together ideas for promotional marketing to sum up this year's happenings at the Library - to be released by the end of December.
- The City Council will be holding a hearing next Monday night to address the Penacook branch library. Patrons may reach out to their City Councilors with messages or notes. It is anticipated that the City Council will decide whether to move forward with a joint venture involving the Boys and Girls Club that could include new space in Penacook for the Library during the City Council's meeting next week.
- The Director hopes the new library space in Penacook is at least 900 square feet in the public area and 200 square feet in the storage area.
- The Director suggests that perhaps a message to the City Council from the Trustees would be a good reminder regarding how the Board supports the Penacook branch project and reiterate what we said in the last letter we sent to the City Council.
- J. Clemans put forward a request for a formal vote on whether we, as the Board, want to take a position in favor of this project if he were to attend the City Council meeting with an official comment from the Trustees. C. Casco so moves, and A. Sekou seconds; it is a unanimous vote - all are in favor of the City moving forward with the Penacook project.

#### 5. CPL Foundation Update

- The last meeting was all about the Penacook branch library.

#### 6. New Business

- L. Sands discussed how the book sale team has done an amazing job. There are high-quality books for kids available for the holiday sale.

#### 7. Old Business

- None

8. Next Meeting: January 9, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. in the Blanchard Room.

9. J. Clemans motions to adjourn at 6:56 pm, C. O'Leary seconds. Motion passes by unanimous voice vote.

18 November 2022



*Standard Magazine Rack*

Dear Board of Trustee Becky Herrmann,

The Concord Public Library offers a wonderful assortment of magazines. The trouble is they are unreadable for two reasons:

1. The rigid plastic jackets make reading them totally miserable
2. The magazines are sprawled out over 50' worth of shelving

Is it possible to remove the plastic jackets and to arrange the magazines in a standard rack like other libraries?

This would give a reader a chance to see all the choices at once and make it very easy for the librarians to manage. It would also free up 50' worth of shelving for more popular materials.

I've been told that "nobody reads magazines anymore". If that's true, then let's completely eliminate them to save time and money. However, observations at other libraries and bookstores indicate people still read magazines when arranged in a traditional manner.

Let's please bring the magazine section into accord with standard practice. Thank you.

Earnestly,

cc:

Christopher Casko  
Jeremy G. Clemans, Chair  
Michelle Conner  
Becky Herrmann  
Norman Kinsler  
Michelle Marino  
Charles O'Leary  
Lisa Sands  
Ali Sekou