

Newport Library Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday January 21, 2009

Present: Curt Fewkes, Chip Norman, Sharon Beardsley, Cindy McConnell, Carol Fisher, Terry Obtshka (City Council Rep), Dale Shaddox (City Manager), Ted Smith (Library Director), Jeff Ingram (note-taker)

Fewkes nominated Sharon Beardsley as new president of the board. Beardsley was elected unanimously.

1. Meeting was officially called to order at 5:25 PM by Beardsley.
2. November board meeting minutes will be approved at the next board meeting in March.
3. Newport City Manager Dale Shaddox was introduced and sat-in on the meeting. Beardsley introduced new library director Ted Smith.

4. Librarian's report:

Smith said how pleased he was to be in Newport. Coming from a similarly-sized library in Nebraska, he was impressed by Newport library's circulation and attendance statistics.

Library staff had discussed removing limit (now 6) from the number of music CDs that may be checked out. As a customer service issue there really is no reason for the limit, as the number of CDs is large and the library has no real return problem. Smith will present a draft policy change at the next meeting for Board approval.

Recently, staff decided to remove the book-on-tape collection from the library. This was done for several reasons. The format has been replaced by books-on-CD and downloadable audio. The old format took up a large amount of space and publishers are no longer producing the format, nor are they furnishing replacements for damaged cassettes.

Smith also noted that Newport library circulates about 4000 Interlibrary loan books per month (ca. 50,000 per year), including CRSN loans. This, he said, is an astounding figure.

Smith outlined two major goals he had for the near-future. Newport library now spends slightly more than 10% of its budget on materials acquisition. He would like to increase that number to 15%, a minimum standard set out by both the Oregon Library Association and the American Library Association. Smith suggested it might take a few years to realize the increase, but it was, he felt, an important goal. Smith would also like to start replacing the library's 40 PCs on a four-year rotation beginning as soon as possible. Some of the facility's PCs are up to 10 years old and can barely handle the intensive memory use of newer software. Smith will discuss this with city IT chief Richard Dutton. Fewkes asked if the Allen or Gates Foundation could be approached for funding. Smith felt that technology should be an integral part of the library's budget, like utilities, but that he wouldn't turn down funds from any source.

Smith also announced the hiring of Karel Richards as new Library clerk to replace

Lupe Smith. Richards begins work on February 2, 2009. She was chosen from 195 applicants.

As there was no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.