

**Newport Public Library  
Board Meeting  
May 19, 2010**

***Minutes***

Present: Sharon Beardsley, Curt Fewkes, Cindy McConnell, Chip Norman, Terry Obteshka, Carol Ruggeri, Ted Smith.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. by Sharon Beardsley.

**Minutes:** The minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting were approved.

**Meeting Room Policy Change:** A change in the meeting room policy was proposed by Library Director Ted Smith, as follows; the line in the policy manual that reads "If an organization or individual wishes to serve refreshments, a \$10 nonrefundable fee will be charged in advance," should be deleted. Smith suggested that since there is no food and drink policy for the rest of the building, it makes no sense to retain the fee for food and drink in the meeting room. The board agreed, and the line above was removed from the policy.

**Librarian's Report:** (The Librarian's report was submitted as an addendum to the agenda.) Smith observed that he submitted a small cut in the services line of the library budget. Beardsley asked for an explanation of that line, and Smith stated that the line covers service contracts for library equipment, such as the elevator and copy machines. Smith said that he cut the utilities line item simply by making what he believes are more careful and accurate predictions about utilities use. Some line items have been consolidated. The main cut to the library budget will be in acquisitions; the library will simply buy fewer books and magazines. It was suggested that this might be a time to introduce the 'Best-Seller Book Club,' a proposal that Smith had suggested some months ago, and Smith said that he and Kay Eldon were working on that project.

Chip Norman and Terry Obteshka complimented Smith on his presentation to the Budget Committee. Smith's presentation was characterized as "succinct."

Board members expressed relief that the library did not suffer loss of staff or open hours.

(A question from Curt Fewkes about the use of the new e-book offerings in Library-To-Go prompted a discussion of e-books generally; board members had some questions about the program. Smith said that statistics on the service come from the state library and have not yet been available.)

Smith informed the board that family members of Lola Jones, a longtime library volunteer who died recently, hope to memorialize her with a bench outside the entrance to the library. Smith then described his plan to replace the current unattractive bike racks in front of the building, and to put the new bike racks under the portico, out of the rain; the new bench would be an element in the new arrangement.

**Foundation Retreat:** It was established that the Foundation Retreat should be held June 16<sup>th</sup>, at 5:15 p.m. (place to be determined). Ruggeri volunteered to e-mail members about their food contributions.

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Martha