

Goodnow Library
Board of Trustees
Tuesday, May 3, 2005
Goodnow Library, Small Conference Room
7:30 p.m.

Minutes

Present: Lily Gordon (chair), Bob Iuliano, Carol Hull, Carolyn Anderson and Bill Talentino

1. Call to Order and Minutes. The meeting was called to order at 7:32. The minutes were approved. (C. Hull/B. Iuliano)

2. Financial Report (February FY05): Overall, the budget categories are fine. We will be turning back some salary, contracted services and building funds -\$24,000. We will have more ballast work done. Bill plans to have carpets, tile and upholstery cleaned and the trim of old wing painted. Landscaping is underway.

3. Friends Report: the Friends' Book/Bake Sale netted \$15,000. The Friends' will have a presence at Sudbury Day.

4. Director's Report:

a) FY06 budget: with the passage of the override, we will be able to move forward on the Assistant Director's position. There are two positions to fill – a part-time reference librarian and the Assistant Director (AD). Bill is finalizing the job description and schedule for the AD. FY06 also includes an additional \$8000 in the Library Materials budget - \$5000 above price increases.

b). Bulletin Board Policy: several years ago we discussed establishing a loose-leaf binder for the type of notices that we do not display on our lobby and interior bulletin boards– announcements of and for babysitting, summer jobs, and yard sales, almost anything legal. Deb asked that we re-consider it. This is just an alert. We will present information at the June meeting.

c) Facilities:

1. Berm. Bill Place has us on his list for repairing the berm.

2 As mentioned above, ballasts will be replaced, carpets cleaned and other building needs addressed.

d) Strategic Plan Survey: the current tally of responses is: 216 random returns, 93 in-house returns and 46 electronic returns – 315 in total. Mark Thompson's department has been maintaining a frantic pace. He will be able to work on the best method for loading the results into the analysis software in mid-May when he gets college student help. Once Mark comes up with a solution, Barbara and Bill will contact those who volunteered to enter the written surveys into the analysis software.

e). Shelving: the trustees approved the plan to add shelving in key areas: non-fiction, fiction, large print, children's picture books, chapter books and A/V. Bill estimated it would total approximately \$25,000. There is approximately \$35,000 left in Build for the Future.

f) One Book One Sudbury: Bill reported on the campaign. The efforts of Lincoln Sudbury High School have been impressive. He was pleased that the Library was able to contribute.

g) Assistant Director: the position will be advertised within a week or so. Bill

hopes to begin preliminary interviews by mid-May. The trustees agreed that one or two of the trustees would be involved in the interview of finalists.

h) Children's Dept. staff received an extremely complimentary letter thanking them for the programs and resources that made the long winter bearable.

6. Trustees Report:

a) Chair person: Appointment of Bob Iuliano as chair. Barbara Pryor was nominated and elected as vice chair.

7. Old Business: none

8. New Business: none

9. Adjournment: 7:55 p.m. (C. Anderson/C. Hull)

May 8, 2005

E-mail among Goodnow Trustees

Trustees,

The following portions of our Meeting Room policy (2003) apply to the situation. At the time we did discuss a hypothetical situation requiring security. We did not consider the possibility of communicating with the police if we determined that a meeting might be a security issue. We have no provision in our policy for addressing a group that falsifies information required on the meeting room reservation form. (I have not seen it in policies of other libraries.)

On the other matter, Bob, didn't you quote the 19th century Polish poet Cyprian Norwid at our last meeting? I don't see a clash here, since the Europeans plan to design an engine "at the service of culture" and the Google project in which Harvard is participating is just "a juxtaposition of books."

Since this is our first e-mail discussion of library matters, I need to remind you that it is part of the public record. Discussions among the trustees of library matters need to be recorded. I will keep an electric and hard copy. Bill Talentino

Relevant Sections of Meeting Room Policy

The Trustees reserve the right to refuse any request to use the Meeting Room if, in their judgment, the meeting could interfere with Library operations or be too large to accommodate. If the Trustees determine that a specific meeting may require additional security for the safety of patrons or Library property, the applicant will be responsible for all additional costs the Library incurs. The applicant ordinarily will be required to pay the anticipated costs in advance of the meeting.

The decision by the Library to permit a use of the meeting room does not in any way constitute an endorsement of the views or policies of the applicant. In its promotional material, an applicant may not suggest that the Library or its staff is endorsing or sponsoring the event.

The Community Meeting Room is located on the first floor of the Library. No other areas of the building will be used for meetings or programs without prior Library approval. The lobby, hallway and other areas adjacent to the Meeting Room are not extensions of the Room. The doors to the Meeting Room must be kept closed during meetings to insure that those using or working in other areas of the Library are not disturbed.

Not to step in the trap Jill so artfully laid, but I am obliged to note that Harvard's collection consists of a significant number of foreign works. If Google digitized the Harvard libraries, the percentage of European (and, indeed, world) works represented

would increase significantly. So the criticism can't be one directed at Harvard!

I didn't see the other article, but Jill's description does raise the question: if a group with offensive views sought to use the meeting room, what would we do? Given our status as a public entity, I assume we'd be obliged to let them use the room, provided they met all of our standard obligations (including the changes we made last year about providing for the security costs). Is that right, Bill?

At 11:13 AM 5/8/2005, BestMomJWB@aol.com wrote:

Hi all, I just wanted to point out two articles in today's papers that I thought were interesting re past discussions we have had. One is in the Metrowest News about how the Google project is ruffling Europeans. Do you think they are trying to tell us that Harvard is not the be all and end all? The 2nd article is in the City section of the Globe, entitled "White supremacists rally in Somerville". Notice how they signed up for meeting room under a different name... and also how the police came to the rescue! Hmm, what is our policy on this? Take care, Jill