

## **Astoria Library Board Meeting**

Astoria Public Library

March 26, 2019

5:30 pm.

**Present:** Library Board members Kate Deeks (via telephone), David Oser, and Kimberley Chaput. Staff Library Director Jimmy Pearson.

**Excused:** Susan Stein.

**Call to Order:** Kate Deeks called the meeting to order at 5:32 pm.

**Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved with the following change: New Business Item 8(c): Library Donor and Naming Policy Review and Approval- Removed.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of February 26, 2019 were approved with the following correction: Kimberley Chaput was absent.

### **Board Reports:**

Kate Deeks reported that the last ALB meeting was Chris Womack's last meeting, as he has joined the Astoria Planning Commission.

David Oser reported the City Council would discuss their goals on Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 1:00 pm at City Hall. The library renovation is on Council's list of goals.

### **Library Director's Report:**

Director Pearson's report was as follows:

- Library Facilities – The new couch cushions have received good feedback. They are more durable and easier to maintain.
- Library Programs – The STEM program went well and kids enjoyed the *Walter the Farting Dog* program. Staff was preparing for April Poetry Month and summer programming.
- Director's Activities – He removed the donor naming policy from the agenda because he learned the Foundation already had a policy.

### **Update on ALFA Activities:**

Director Pearson noted that ALFA did not have a meeting.

### **Update on Foundation:**

David Oser provided details on the fundraiser at Fort George that evening. Students from Astoria High and Middle Schools and Tongue Point would have a display in the Flag Room as part of the Art Walk on April 13<sup>th</sup>. People interested in making major gifts with naming rights to various aspects of the library will be invited to an afternoon event on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The Foundation is also seeking grant opportunities.

### **New Business:**

#### **Item 8(a): Library Bill of Rights – Discussion and Endorsement**

Director Pearson asked the Board for a formal endorsement of the policy as a way of affirming that the guidelines are adhered to. The Bill of Rights was created by the American Library Association. He intended to publish the document on the library's website to use as a tool when library policies are questioned.

David Oser supported the overall concept but expressed concerns about the appropriateness of this document in a public community library because the community's standards already guide library policies.

The Board and Staff discussed each item on the list with respect to beliefs, censorship, and subjective language in the document. The library's job is to provide a balance of viewpoints, but the Collection Development Policy offers library patrons the opportunity to have materials removed from the collections.

While the Library Director understands what types of materials are appropriate for the community, community standards do not allow all viewpoints.

Director Pearson described issues that Seaside had with a library patron printing pornographic materials. He explained that the library cannot filter content or materials, but can take action if the use of that content or materials violates the Standards of User Conduct or laws are broken. Therefore, the library must deal with each issue on a case by case basis.

David Oser believed Director Pearson did a good job of enforcing appropriate community standards so that the library is a safe and welcoming place. Director Pearson's qualitative judgement is important and valued.

Kimberley Chaput also supported the overall concept, but was concerned that some classifications of people were omitted from the groups identified in the document. Director Pearson noted the document did include a statement on inclusion.

Director Pearson suggested the Bill of Rights be added to a future meeting's agenda so the Board could think about its decision and vote on endorsing the policy with all Board members present. He also recommended a work session in the fall to discuss the Bill of Rights in more depth.

**Item 8(b): Library Standards of User Conduct – Update and Approval**

Director Pearson provided details on several behavioral issues that occurred in the library and on library property over the winter. He requested the library use policy be updated in a way that would allow Staff to enforce better behaviors, add some clarifications to the existing policy, and prevent safety issues. He reviewed the specific updates and explained that if the Board approved, he would then ask City Council to adopt the updates at their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Kate Deeks appreciated that the updates were based on Staff's input. David Oser said he whole heartedly supported the updates.

David Oser moved to approve the updates to the Library Standards of User Conduct policy, as recommended by Director Pearson; seconded by Kimberley Chaput. The motion was unanimously approved.

**Item 8(c): Library Donor and Naming Policy – Review and Approval**

This item was removed from the agenda.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**Public Comments:** There were none.

**Items for Next Meeting's Agenda:** Review of the Unattended Child Policy

The Board and Director Pearson briefly discussed the Open Meetings Act, the Open Records Act, and communication between Board members and Staff.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:19 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paula Pinyerd, ABC Transcription Services, Inc.