

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN

Public Library Board of Library Trustees

Minutes of Public Meeting August 20, 2012

Meeting was held at the Provincetown Public Library, 356 Commercial St.

Members Present: Patsy Greene, EveLyn Kratz, Mick Rudd, Donna Vaillancourt, Louise Venden

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Cheryl Napsha, Library Director;

Call to Order: Chairman Kratz called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

1. Public Statements: None

2. Agenda Order: No changes.

3. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Greene made a motion to approve the July 16, 2012 minutes. Ms. Venden seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0-1.

Ms. Venden made a motion to approve the July 23, 2012 minutes. Ms. Greene seconded the motion, which was approved 4-0-1.

4. Director's Report

There was a great deal of discussion on the Director's Report and the activity happening at the library.

One of the primary issues involved the library's use of technology, and how to better serve our community through electronic and web-based tools.

There was interest in using Skype to connect our population with loved ones who are geographically inaccessible. Matt is working on adding that program and hardware to our public computers.

This is the last year for Provincetown High School, and discussion flowed on how the library can help to make it a special year for the nine seniors.

Several board members were happy about the library's collaboration with the annual Swim for Life event, and the upcoming display of ribbons on the library's front lawn.

5. Update on Fundraiser

Ms. Vaillancourt offered a summary of the work done so far on planning a fundraising event for the library in October. The committee has identified a theme and is in the process of enumerating all the details and determining which people will handle specific tasks. For the first time, the library is seeking outside sponsorship for the event.

6. Review Community Event Policy

Ms. Kratz presented some revisions to update the policy. Ms. Greene made a motion to remove # 7 from the current Conditions of Use and replace it with the following:

1. Beer and wine may be served at an event only upon the expressed approval of the Board of Library Trustees and pursuant to Provincetown Licensing Board's Regulations. Licensing Board approval may be required, consult the Licensing Agent for the Licensing Board meeting schedule. The Police Chief must be notified.
2. Alcohol may only be served by a licensed caterer with liability insurance, poured by a TIPS- trained bartender. Caterers may not purchase, sell or resell alcoholic beverages.
3. According to ABCC Regulations, Special License (1-day license): The local licensing authority may issue special licenses for the sale of wines and/or malt beverages to any enterprise. However, special licenses for the sale of all alcohol beverages may be issued to non-profit organizations only.

Ms. Vaillancourt seconded the motion, which was approved 5-0-0.

7. Schedule Long Range Planning Session

The Board plans to hold a retreat sometime in late October. Prior to that time they will identify members of the community to participate. A facilitator has been selected for the process.

8. Other Business and Correspondence

None.

9. Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Monday, September 17 at 6 pm at the library.

9. Adjournment:

Ms. Greene moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:42 pm. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Napsha

**Provincetown Public Library
Director's Report
July 14- August 17, 2012**

“In our democratic society, the library stands for hope, for learning, for progress, for literacy, for self-improvement and for civic engagement. The library is a symbol for democracy itself. It is a critical component in the free exchange of information, which is at the heart of our democracy.”

Vartan Gregorian

FUTURE PLANS & MORE

Matt, Rebecca and I are thinking outside the box in using technology for the unique needs here in Provincetown. We've come up with a few projects that I think will be successful.

Matt has been working on creating a new, more interactive website. We're looking to add more user-generated content, such as videos, images and blogs that are created by our community. We hope to have that operational by early September.

Matt and I had a very productive meeting with Beth O'Rourke from PTV and found that our interests and goals intersected nicely. We're both interested in generating content that is unique to Provincetown. Beth has offered to compile our "Day in the Life" idea into a video format and is generally interested in partnering with us on future projects. Matt has already gone through training, and he and Susan Mitchell film most of our programs which are now available on PTV and their website.

I attended the inaugural meeting of the Provincetown High School Alumni Committee, where we discussed various ways to acknowledge this special time in the school and town history. Superintendent Beth Singer, Beth O'Rourke, Matt and I are on a committee whose goal is to document as well as possible the events of this year and include members of the community in addition to the students and faculty.

PROGRAMMING

Over the past two months I've worked with Jay Critchley to partner on celebrating this year's 25th anniversary Swim For Life. In addition to the buoy currently displayed on the front lawn, we are planning a wonderful display for later this month. For four days, from August 24-27, our lawn will have all 2,500 prayer ribbons displayed, the first time the collection has ever been displayed in its entirety. On Sunday, August 26 there will be a meditative reading of all 2,500 ribbons on the front lawn. Matt will film the event, and interviews with participants, for PTV. This promises to be a very powerful, very special day.

The *We Have Faith* exhibit presented by the Family Diversity Project drew a great number of people during its 3-week showing. The opening celebration, a collaboration with the Family Equality Council, attracted more than 50 people, including most of the local clergy. It was a powerful exhibit and we're grateful that they used our space again this year.

From Matt:

Community Programs:

Out of the woodwork plus near and far, the Provincetown Library's first "Open Mic Night" attracted readers, writers and listeners from as far away as France, Switzerland and Los Angeles to our own home-grown local fare. The audience of 22 was not only treated to coffee and tea but a cornucopia of fable, short story, poetry, memoir and a snippet from a novel. The event was held on August 9 in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room. Based on the successful attendance rate, the Library has decided to hold another "Open Mic Night" on Thursday, September 6.

Free movie nights in the Lower Level reading room have been attended by at least ten for each of the last four screenings. *Wanderlust*, *The Artist*, *Jeff Who Lives at Home*, and *Sherlock Holmes* have drawn in both locals and tourists. *The Artist* attracted a full capacity crowd. Advertising in local papers and on PTV has helped to ensure that this program continues steady numbers since it started in January.

Children:

The Library's latest collaborative program with the Recreation Department has two sessions remaining. Each week the Library has provided a series of activities, games, movies, readings, crafts, and enriching programs to participants in the Recreation Department's Summer Day Program. Attendance at this program has been as high as 45 children during Family Week.

In order to keep the kids participating in this program entertained with a diverse sampling of programs each week, we had two visits from outside organizations to appear at the Library:

Park ranger, author, and researcher Jon Way visited the Library to present a program focusing on coyotes complete with props and samples including actual animal bones. Jon's appearance was a fun way for kids to learn about the traits and lifestyle of these Cape residents. Jon will be in the Children's Arts and Crafts area on the second level again on Tuesday, August 28 to give a talk on whales.

Tim Green visited the Provincetown Public Library on July 23 and August 6 for a fun fitness hour on the front lawn. Tim has worked as a celebrity trainer, contributes to several leading fitness magazines, and is the author of the "Trainer Tim" book series. Having the kids on the front lawn of our building drew a great reaction from members of our community and tourists passing by. People stopped to take photos, video, and cheer on the kids as they completed the various activities led by Tim.

Lucy Gilmore's Children's Storytime (formerly "Born to Read") has continued to run weekly through July and August. Lucy has had at least twelve people attend her program each Friday, and hosts the group for roughly one hour.

Despite some poor weather, Julie and Denya's Global Music Adventure was attended by 10 kids and family members on July 18. The group played an array of different instruments and performed original songs for an hour. They received several positive comments from the audience.

Jay Mankita presented his program "The Day the Library Went Wild" on July 25 as part of the Library's ongoing Summer Children's Programming.

The Elbows presented a program featuring enchanting music for children of all ages on Wednesday, August 1 as part of the Library's Family Week events. Forty-two were in attendance for the hour-long performance-based program.

On Wednesday, August 8, fan favorite Big Ryan conducted a program including his original stories, puppet play, a bit of music and movement and a whole lot of fun! Big Ryan of Plymouth, MA has been telling stories for over 11 years in preschools, elementary schools, and libraries all over Massachusetts. This was his third trip of the year to our Library, and twenty people attended this hour-long event.

Author Appearances:

An Evening with Authors Kathleen George and Hilary Masters

Authors Kathleen George and Hilary Masters talked about their books and lives as writers on July 18 in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room. Both sold several copies of their work to various members of the audience. A total of ten people attended the event.

Power, Politics, and Universal Healthcare with David Shactman

David Schactman presented his new book, *Power, Politics, and Universal Healthcare*, in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room on Tuesday, July 17. Despite some wet weather, David still had a five people attend his reading and he was able to hold a discussion with the audience as part of his presentation.

Sarah Pearlman: Mother Talk: Conversations with Mothers of Lesbian Daughters and FTM Transgender Children

That very same night, Sarah Pearlman also presented her new book, which is a compilation of stories by mothers with Lesbian or Transgender daughters. Sarah was successful in selling several copies of her book, and had eight people come to listen to her readings.

A Conversation with Author John Henry Brebbia

On Tuesday, July 24, Jack Brebbia read from his various novels and answered questions about his life as a writer.

Zach Wahls: My Two Moms: Lessons of Love, Strength, and What Makes a Family

On Monday, July 30, author, advocate, and celebrity Zach Wahls appeared at the Provincetown Public Library to talk about his book and life. Zach had an audience of 65 turn out to see his program, which was held in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room as part of the Library's Family Week Celebration. Zach held a question and answer session at

the end of his talk, and also autographed books before leaving. His program was filmed and is currently airing on PTV.

Fatal Decision: Edith Cavell WWI Nurse by Terri Arthur

Cape Cod author Terri Arthur gave a presentation and signing of her book *Fatal Decision: Edith Cavell WWI Nurse* on August 2 at Library at 6:30pm. Eight people attended.

Max Grinnell the Urbanologist

Max Grinnell is a writer, college lecturer, explorer, and a public speaker. He has contributed to a number of travel publications, and his most recent books are the *Rough Guide to Chicago: 3rd Edition* and *24 Great Walks in Chicago*. He shared his unique experiences and travels with a group of six on August 3, in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room.

Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens by Kathy Belge

The Library proudly welcomed author Kathy Belge to read from her latest book *Queer: The Ultimate LGBT Guide for Teens* (Zest Books, 2011.) She also talked a bit about her life as a freelance writer on Tuesday Aug 7, 2012 6:30 pm. Kathy, who lives in Portland, has been visiting Provincetown for the summer and had a nice crowd of twelve people, thanks to some great self-promotion around town.

Author Robert Taylor presents: A New Way to be Human

On August 14, Author Robert Taylor presented his book designed to help readers find new meaning and oneness, every single day. Robert talked about the new way to be human, read from the book and engaged in discussion with the audience. He conducted his program in the Marc Jacobs Reading Room.

Upcoming Programs:

Todd Pittinsky: Us Plus Them

Tuesday, August 21
6:30 pm

Animal World Experience

Wednesday, August 22 6:30 pm

Is There Value in Your Old and Rare Books?

Thursday, August 23 6:00 pm

Swim for Life Prayer Ribbon Reading

Sunday, August 26 3:00 pm

National Seashore Whale Program

Tuesday, August 28 10:30 am

Friends of Edward Carpenter

Wednesday, August 29 6:30 pm

Author Michael Cunningham

Thursday, August 30 6:30 pm

Travel to China: From Preparation to Immersion
Friday, August 31 3:00 pm

Free Movie Nights

Wednesdays in August 6:00 pm

August 22: *Too Big to Fail*

August 29: *The Descendants*

From Rebecca:

The Thursday morning E-Reader/Tablet Workshop continues to draw a steady audience. Starting in September the workshop will expand to Seashore Point on a bi-weekly basis. Additional plans have been made to bring the workshop to the COA on September 19th.

In addition to many technological queries, this past month has brought a number of in-depth research projects. At least eight patrons have engaged me in their search for information on long lost family members, pictures of now-sunken fishing vessels, and fascinating details of Provincetown's history. One requestor, a Professor from University of Nebraska, has promised an acknowledgement of his gratitude in his future publication.

We have sent out our application to bring the 2013 Mass. Memories Road Show to Provincetown in collaboration with the COA, Town Clerk, Provincetown History Project, Historical Commission, Art Commission, and Provincetown Monument & Museum. While we are still waiting for official approval from the Road Show committee, last Monday brought an enthusiastic response and promise of support from the Board of Selectmen. We are very excited to bring this event-based public history project to Provincetown and to be collaborating with so many wonderful organizations to do so. *(Note from Cheryl: Rebecca is being incredibly modest. While this project has been in existence for more than 5 years, and both COA and the Town Clerk have expressed interest in it, Rebecca is the first person to bring the various parties together and create a collaboration. She also wrote the grant for the project, for which I will be Project Coordinator while Rebecca bears the brunt of the work. It was Rebecca who made the presentation to the Board of Selectmen and garnered their enthusiasm. I am very grateful that she is part of our team).*

Matt and I have been working on a weekly basis to update the library website to a more inviting format. In addition, I have begun updating our Facebook page on a regular basis. The likes and comments we've received, though not yet numerous, speak favorably of this form of communication.

An additional form of outreach, through the Boston Ferry/Fast Ferry, appears to have sprung up on its own. I learned recently that the Provincetown office for the ferry has

been distributing our purple library brochures. I happily printed more for their use and anticipate that such requests will continue.