

Library Advisory Board Minutes

November 11, 2014

Present – Linda Eastman, Colleen Jones-Turner, Aimee Turner, Bradley Rau, Jessica Walker, Julie Kingsley

Absent – Lynne Joys

This meeting was a special meeting, focused on discussing the initial steps of a strategic planning process.

Kevin suggested that the first step for the group would be to consider developing a vision statement and examining – and possibly revising – the library’s existing mission statement. Kevin provided examples of other mission and vision statements from area libraries (attached).

Current library mission statement: *“South Portland Public Library welcomes all citizens to the wealth of accumulated knowledge and provides free resources to support the interests of its patrons.”*

Kevin: Mission statements should be addressed from time to time. This statement has never been addressed during my time with the city, and has never grabbed me. It is very “blah” and not captivating.

Linda: This does not look complete enough. It looks like the beginning of a mission statement.

There was some discussion of the need for a statement to be interesting, yet broadly worded to encompass all that a library does. Expressing openness and diversity are key to a statement.

SPPL’s 50th anniversary is coming up soon, which would be a great time to introduce any new plans or ideas.

Amy: “Discovery” is a key word. Talks about how frequently she discovers new things at the library, both through the materials and the programming.

Jessica: Spoke to the importance of the Branch to the library system and how important that location is to the western end of the city. Wants to make sure the Branch is actively included in any planning and continues to be a part of the mission. Kevin restated the importance of the Branch to the library’s overall operation. It is only the economic feasibility of operating the Branch that allows South Portland to offer the service hours that a community the size of South Portland requires.

Jessica: We need to come up with where we see ourselves and then craft a statement around that.

Linda: We should brainstorm words. "Enrichment" "Cultural" "Discovery" – need words that touch the heart.

Community is important. Expanding horizons. Recognizing wide range of ages, generations.

Meeting a broad population through innovative means.

Linda: I prefer "offer" over "provide" – sounds friendlier.

"Shared community resources" is an important concept to instill value of materials and shared responsibility for their care.

Kevin: It is important to not tie language to particular forms of media, be it books, video or whatever. The library will continue to deliver the same services it always has, but the formats will continue to change.

The group debated the use of the word "free" as an attractive selling point.

Brad offered to put the Board in touch with his father, who teaches a class on strategic planning, to help to jumpstart the group process.

The development of the mission statement should be a process which includes staff input. Kevin will engage staff and solicit feedback, which he will bring back their input to the board.

Public Comment: None

Next Meeting: January 20, 2015

Adjournment

Respectfully Submitted by Kevin M. Davis

Mission and Vision Statements

I think that, prior to strategic planning, SPPL needs to have its mission, vision and values updated and clearly defined. Currently, we only have an official Mission Statement, and it seems due for reevaluation...

SPPL's Mission Statement:

South Portland Public Library welcomes all citizens to the wealth of accumulated knowledge and provides free resources to support the interests of its patrons.

SPPL currently has no Vision Statement, nor stated values.

Clarifying these statements would help to better define our goals and tasks for embarking on strategic planning.

Curtis Memorial Library (Brunswick):

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance the quality of life in our towns by advancing knowledge, fostering creativity, encouraging the exchange of ideas, and building community.

VISION STATEMENT

Curtis Memorial Library aspires to be an **essential focal point of community life**, offering a safe, trusted environment in which the community's needs will be met in the following six key areas:

- The library will continue to be a **home for readers** where everyone can find the stories they want to read, listen to authors talk, share literature with each other, and explore the world through the written word.
- The library will continue to ensure **early literacy**, providing parents and children with the language and literacy foundation children need.
- The library will become a **technology bridge**, providing support and training that will help individuals access the Internet and explore rapidly evolving technology.
- The library will be the place to go for **lifelong learning opportunities and information** in the form of speakers, programs and learning materials.
- The library will **enrich the cultural and recreational lives** of community members with materials and programs that inspire and entertain.
- The library will continue to build its role as a **key link between the community and its heritage**, helping maintain the special sense of place that makes "here" unique.

Scarborough Public Library

Mission

The mission of the Scarborough Public Library is to provide Scarborough citizens and other patrons of all ages with a high quality facility and services, consistent with available community resources. This shall include:

- a stimulating and welcoming atmosphere
- access to knowledge through diverse formats
- assistance with access to information
- support for formal or independent education, and
- opportunities for lifelong learning and enjoyment

Vision

The Scarborough Public Library will be Scarborough's innovative community leader delivering services, technology, and knowledge to people of all ages.

Values

We are a vibrant library that demands outstanding performance of ourselves. To that end, we are proactive and courageous leaders in the library community – keeping abreast of the latest technology while honoring and maintaining tradition. Our staff is a valued asset that skillfully assists a broad population. In order to ensure that patrons have a positive experience, we respectfully consult and engage with community members. We are committed to using our resources judiciously to provide a space and atmosphere that serves as an anchor for our community.

Portland Public Library

OUR MISSION

Building a City of Readers

OUR VISION

Portland Public Library will be the civic and cultural center of a dynamic region in which citizens are literate, informed, and engaged. The Library will provide resources and experiences that inspire imagination, curiosity, awareness, and learning. The Library will embrace change and evolve to meet the needs of the community.

OUR VALUES

- Freedom
 - Inclusiveness
 - Creativity
 - Collaboration
 - Sustainability
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Bangor Public Library

Mission Statement

The Bangor Public Library strives to inspire, enlighten and enrich its members by connecting them to books, information and ideas needed for work, recreation, education and inspiration by providing excellent service to its members and community.

Vision Statement

The Bangor Public Library contributes to the prosperity and growth of the city by fostering the spirit of exploration, the joy of reading, the pursuit of knowledge, and the preservation of its community's history.

Values Statement

- We believe that a free public library is essential to the public good.
 - We believe that a free public library is essential to our system of self-government which assumes the existence of an informed citizenry.
 - We believe that all library users are entitled to the highest level of service.
 - We believe that all library users have the right to privacy, confidentiality, and intellectual freedom.
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Denver Public Library:

The Denver Public Library connects people with information, ideas and experiences to provide enjoyment, enrich lives and strengthen our community.

Seattle Public Library:

The Seattle Public Library brings people, information and ideas together to enrich lives and build community.

New York Public Library:

The mission of The New York Public Library is to inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen our communities.

Los Angeles Public Library:

The Los Angeles Public Library provides free and easy access to information, ideas, books and technology that enrich, educate and empower every individual in our city's diverse communities.

Queens (New York) Library:

The mission of the Queens Library is to provide quality services, resources, and lifelong learning opportunities through books and a variety of other formats to meet the informational, educational, cultural, and recreational needs and interests of its diverse and changing population.

The Library is a forum for all points of view and adheres to the principles of intellectual freedom as expressed in the Library Bill of Rights formulated by the American Library Association.

Oak Park (Chicago Area) Public Library:

Oak Park Public Library enhances the quality of life in our diverse community by providing the resources and services for lifelong learning and enjoyment, the space and opportunities to gather and connect, and by fostering a love of reading.