

**Board of Trustees
Ilsley Public Library
Wednesday, December 16, 2015.
Community Room, Ground floor of library
Draft Minutes**

Board members in attendance:

Maria Graham, Rebekah Irwin, Chris Watters, John Freidin, Skylar Atkins.

Also in attendance: Kevin Unrath, Director; Susan Shashok, Selectboard member, Christina Johnston, Building Committee member, Kathleen Ramsay and Chris English, Town of Middlebury.

Meeting began at 8:08 am.

Public & Board Comments – Mr. Watters commented that singers from Clair College gave a concert at St. Stephens and wondered if we could co-host such events in the future. Mr. Unrath will look into doing this more for adult programs (the library already does so for a bevy of children’s programs).

Approval of last month’s minutes - approved as written.

Old Business

--*Building committee updates:* Committee met on Monday, December 14th and worked further on draft language in the RFQ for hiring an architect to provide preliminary plans. Approval of finalized language is expected at the committee’s January 24th meeting.

--*Modified language in board bylaws:* The Board approved the following modification to its bylaws, pending a public hearing at the next board meeting: “Section 8: REGULAR MEETING. The board shall meet at least six times per year with each meeting warned in accordance with current open meeting law. Regular meetings shall be held at the Ilsley Library.”

New Business

Presentation by Bryan Alexander on the future of technology and libraries. Mr. Alexander is a futurist who looks at technology and education. He presented ideas for us to consider regarding libraries 10 to 30 years from now. Forecasts included:

- *Social dimension* – serving diverse, multifaceted populations
- *Riptide of change* – growing multiplicity of options with technological change
- *Funding climate* and *Adaptability* two key matrixes for change
 - Good funding and Adaptable: “Utopia”

- Good funding/not adaptable: missed opportunity
- Bad funding and Adaptable: Innovation under stress
- Bad funding/not Adaptable: Stagnation and decline
- Keys to proactive leadership: entrepreneurial funding, proactive leadership
- Librarians are changing – less regional, 1st career, middle of a generation gap
- Student culture changing – first-gen, military and adult learners ; web culture; boomers
- On-site service to distant clientele becoming more important
- “We potentially haven’t reached to bottom of perceived library role”
- Spaces changes: *Jazz up* spaces, coffee, food, yoga, makerspace, videos
- Or, will physical space disappear in the future?
- Users are more empowered; consumer side of responding
- Libraries are niche player in information landscape
- Privacy protectors
- Dealing with silo-ed information
- Overcoming the digital divide
- Growth of media production, intentional and as space for dispersed individual work
- Fewer libraries going forward (similar to education consolidation)
- Spaces library inhabit related to education: PreK-12+ being reformed; rising student debt; alternative certification; international students, US campuses going international.
- Demographics: Youth population shrinking, senior population ballooning.
- Economics: shift from manufacturing to service economy; career to multiple gigs; declining participation in job market and rise of automation.
- Income inequality back to levels of Gilded Age: will affect libraries both for patron base and fundraising.
- Technology changes:
 - Amazing increases in data storage;
 - Vertically stacked technology, doesn’t play well together; multiple ecosystems;
 - Surveillance state has been accepted;
 - Digitization continues to happen.
- Digital video
- Cloud migration continues
- Automation and artificial intelligence
- Augmented reality (pinning digital content to the physical world)
- 3D printing expanding to many fields; personal robotics via Arduino

Scheduling of Next Meeting – January 20th at 8 am.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kevin Unrath