

PINES Proposal to Eliminate or Reduce the Charge for Replacement Library Cards

Proposal

I respectfully request that the PINES Executive Committee either reduce or eliminate the charge to replace library cards. The current charge is set at \$2.00.

Reasoning

Financial:

Permacard charges \$0.116 per card. This is a huge difference from the \$2.00 charge for patrons. Even when factoring in shipping charges or set-up fees, the library's cost still does not come anywhere close to \$2.00.

Barrier to Access:

Our pitch is simple – your library card is free! However, in the fine-print, we add – unless you've had a card and had the misfortune of misplacing it. I would hazard to guess that the majority of lost cards come from normal life activities – moving, changing wallets, children, and the like. I think we should consider not penalizing someone who wants to replace their library card. Also, it should be considered that patrons can present an accepted form of ID in lieu of a library card. In these cases, these patrons just want the proud feeling of having a physical card – and I don't think that should be punished.

Options to Consider

1. Completely eliminating the charge for a replacement library card
2. Reducing the charge to replace a library card
3. Allowing each library system to set their own charge for a replacement card