

Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of January 22, 2008

Members present: Greg Bedula, Paul Courchaine, Greg Curtin, Tracy Gionfriddo, Susan Grady, Howard Greenblatt, Brad Milvae, Clare Meade, Pauline Moon

Staff present: Laurel Goodgion, director; Liz Kirkpatrick, asst. director

Others present: Luci Domick, president of the Friends of the Library

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Greg Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:11.

At 7:11 Tracy Gionfriddo moved to go into executive session. Howard Greenblatt seconded. The motion carried.

At 7:12 Paul Courchaine moved to come out of executive session. Polly Moon seconded. The motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

RENOVATION

Chairman Curtin had asked the Building Committee to notify the Library Board when it was time to order the shelving. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien asked Laurel Goodgion about the original shelving bid. Laurel checked with the shelving consultant, who directed her to the vendor. The vendor agreed to extend the original pricing schedule (now eighteen months old) for the shelving. Needless to say, this is very good news considering that the cost of materials has escalated tremendously.

Liz Kirkpatrick attended a job meeting in which it was reported that the structural engineer on the job approved the construction of the façade.

Greg Curtin congratulated Laurel, Liz, and the rest of the Library staff on the successful re-opening of the expanded mini-library. Even though the weather wasn't that good, many people were in attendance: a lot of children and their parents, some Town Council and Board of Education members, Wethersfield's two state senators, some Friends of the Library, and some Library Board members. The Friends of the Library paid for the entertainment by Valentine the clown, who did a great job of face painting and balloon art. The Friends also provided for the refreshments: coffee, juice, cookies, and homemade madeleines. It was estimated that about 150 people attended the celebration.

Laurel, Greg, and Polly were interviewed by Joyce Rossignol, a reporter for *Wethersfield Life*, who is going to write an article for the February issue on the Library renovation and the Board's fundraising plans that are just getting underway. She received additional information from Clare Meade, a member of the Fundraising Committee. Joyce was also given a tour of the interim library.

At 7:28 Clare Meade arrived.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Greg Curtin thanked Luci Domick for all the Friends' support in making the re-opening celebration a success last Thursday. Luci presented the Friends' proposed changes to the draft of the Memorandum of Agreement between the Library Board and the Friends of the Library, a document that will help prevent misunderstanding of the roles of the

Library and the Friends of the Library. A discussion followed with Board members making suggested changes to the document.

Paul Courchaine moved to accept the draft as amended by the Library Board. Clare Meade seconded. The motion carried.

Luci Domick will take the amended draft back to the Friends for their approval. It will be formally adopted at the next meeting.

COUNCIL LIAISON: NONE

(The Town Council is meeting tonight instead of last night because of the M.L.K. holiday yesterday.)

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The [minutes of December 11, 2007](#), were approved as distributed.

QUESTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR

Luci Domick asked about museum passes. Laurel answered that as passes expire, the Library renews them. The Friends approve the expenses annually.

A report is sent to the State Library stating how much the Friends have donated to the Wethersfield Library.

Laurel offered to report the Friends' donations at the end of the year.

Polly Moon asked about the Action Fund. She requested that replacement of lost items be labeled other than Library materials in the Action Fund budget report.

The Finance Committee will look at the reporting of the Action Fund.

REQUEST FOR TRUST FUNDS FOR FURNISHINGS

The request for funds of \$1,417 for a bench in the children's area was tabled. The Friends will be able to cover the cost of the bench.

Laurel explained the need for more spinner racks to accommodate new adult, and teen materials. The Building Committee didn't appropriate the funds. The Friends and Dutch Point Credit Union paid for units for the children's area. Additional spinners were paid for out of the Action Fund. Laurel requested a transfer of \$4,433 from the Trust Fund to the Action Fund to cover the cost of these racks.

A discussion followed about the funds on hand. Howard Greenblatt suggested leaving the money in the Trust Fund because it is a higher interest earning account. The Board agreed and decided to leave the Trust Fund intact.

The motion to transfer \$4,433 from the Trust Fund was tabled.

PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2008-2009

Chairman Curtin postponed the discussion on the proposed budget to let the Finance Committee finish looking it over and sign off on it. There will be a special Library Board meeting on Thursday, January 31, at 7:00 to approve the budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clare Meade reported from the Fundraising Committee. She brought the Board up to date on the fundraising goal of \$40,000. She made the following points:

The Friends of the Library are on board.

Greg Curtin and Polly Moon spoke to some Town Council members. They are on board with the idea.

There will be an article in *Wethersfield Life* in mid-February.

Tracy Gionfriddo, Tracy McDougall, and Clare Meade will contact individual members of the Library Board. Members will be expected to give a stretch gift. The committee would like one lead gift of \$5,000.

Pledges need to be in by the end of the fiscal year.

Another piece of the fundraising project is to find those in the community who are willing to help, people who want to invest in their Library.

The committee will meet with community groups.

It will be people to people with Board members reaching out to their friends.

Tracy McDougall is working on a fundraising letter on the Friends of the Library letterhead.

Board members will personalize the letters and mail them to their friends.

At 8:29 Polly Moon left.

Greg Curtin suggested finding an outstanding community figure to designate as honorary chairperson of the fundraising campaign.

At 8:34 Howard Greenblatt moved to adjourn. Clare Meade seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady
Secretary