

Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of July 22, 2008

Members present: Greg Bedula, Kimberly Bobin, Paul Courchaine, Susan Grady, Ralph Horowitz, Clare Meade, Jennifer Miglus, Brad Milvae

Member/s excused: Polly Moon

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

After introductions of new Board members Kimberly Bobin, Ralph Horowitz, and Jennifer Miglus, Vice-chairperson Paul Courchaine called the meeting to order at 7:05 in the absence of Chairperson Polly Moon, who was attending a Core Services meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

RENOVATION

Laurel reported that the Town Council approved the Library shelving bid. Town Hall staff will move back to Town Hall during the week of September 15. The plan is still to open the full Library at the end of December or the beginning of January 2009. The move depends on how quickly Town Hall moves out, and a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. There needs to be time or "wobble room" between installing the shelving, moving everything around, and bringing the books back.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

For the benefit of new Board members, President Luci Domick briefly explained the role of the Friends. They advocate for the Library. They try to fund what the town council doesn't. Their goal is to target as much money as they can for the Library. They fund the Museum Pass Program and much of the children's summer reading program. The Friends will not be having any more book sales. There is no storage room. The 10 by 20ft. storage in the original renovation plans is not available because the space allotted turned out to be non-functional. The storage space provided by the storage company on the Silas Deane was free for a year but is no longer available at no cost. Because of the lack of adequate storage, the Friends will not be able to hold the kind of book sales they did in the past.

Books withdrawn from Library circulation are given to the Friends. They make about \$100 a month from their on-going sales in the Library.

Luci reported that the new members of the Friends' Executive Committee are very enthusiastic. Their annual meeting will be held on October 14. Phil Lohman, the keynote speaker, will talk about The Witch of Blackbird Pond. Food from the time period will be served. Paul Courchaine offered to help with the food preparation.

Information on the fundraising and donors will be kept until the latter part of August and then published in the September issue of the Library newsletter.

BOARD FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE (taken out of order)

Chairperson Clare Meade reported that Board members pledged certain amounts for the fundraising effort and those who haven't done so need to send their checks in.

COUNCIL LIAISON: NOT IN ATTENDANCE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2008

The [minutes of June 24, 2008](#), were approved as distributed. There was one abstention.

QUESTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR

Library loans have been steadily increasing.

Library use is up 20% from last year.

Usage over the last six months is up 30% over last year.

There is now a third computer at the check-out desk to handle demand.

Registration for the children's summer reading program broke all records. Library staff had visited all classrooms.

The "Public Selves and Private Selves" book discussions led by Dr. B.J. Smith were well attended.

850 items were collected for the Food Bank in the Food for Fines program.

The Library has advertised for the position of Library Aide. There have been no applicants as of yet.

The new salary schedule went into effect on July 1. Wethersfield is now competitive with other libraries. Town Manager Bonnie Therrien has been asked to begin re-negotiating the new union contract.

Laurel distributed the budget report using the new MUNIS system. There were some transfers to cover overages in certain accounts. The Finance Dept. made some other transfers.

LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER JOB DESCRIPTION

After some discussion, Greg Bedula moved to approve the Library Board member job description as revised. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried.

POLICIES

Children's Behavior

Brad Milvae moved that the revised Children's Behavior Policy be approved. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

Wireless Access

Many questions were raised about this policy. Paul Courchaine suggested that the Town Attorney review it. The other members of the Board agreed.

Polly Moon arrived at 7:57.

COMMITTEES

Volunteers are needed for all committees. More information on committees will be forthcoming at the next Board meeting.

Board Development Committee

Laurel complimented the Board Development Committee for their work in finding replacements for the three Board members leaving the Board.

At 8:05 Greg Bedula moved to go into executive session to discuss the Library Director's annual review. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:06 Laurel Goodgion, Liz Kirkpatrick, and Luci Domick left.

At 8:16 Susan Grady moved to go out of executive session. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:17 Polly Moon moved to adjourn. Ralph Horowitz seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady
Secretary