

Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of May 22, 2007

Members present: Greg Bedula, Paul Courchaine, Tracy Gionfriddo, Susan Grady, Howard Greenblatt, Brad Milvae, Pauline Moon, Karen Mortensen.

Members excused: Greg Curtin

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

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-chair Polly Moon called the meeting to order at 7:02.

PUBLIC COMMENT: NONE

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: NONE

RENOVATION AND PROPOSAL TO EXPAND LIBRARY SPACE AND SERVICES

Director Laurel Goodgion distributed a copy of the Building Committee's memo to Town Manager Bonnie Therrien with its recommendation to use the Library as swing space for the Town Hall during Phase 2 of the renovation. Laurel also distributed a copy of the "Proposal to Expand Library Services during the Renovation" (dated May 14, 2007) which Board Chair Greg Curtin had given to members of the Building Committee at their May 14, 2007 meeting.

The Building Committee made its recommendation to the Town Council that the Town Hall use the Library as swing space. The Town Council approved bid Alternate 8, which stipulates that the Town Hall will be unoccupied during the renovation, thus shortening the construction period and providing a cost saving. The logistics of the space have not been decided yet.

The Library Board has done all it could to advocate the best use of Library space. The Board will continue to cooperate with Town Hall and the Building Committee.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Director Goodgion reported for Luci Domick, president of the Friends, that the Friends will conduct a book sale on Saturday, June 9, in the corridor of Town Hall. Vice-president Lucille Plouffe will need help transporting books to and from Town Hall. The Friends will also have a booth at Barks for the Park in Mill Woods.

COUNCIL LIAISON: NONE

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

The [minutes of the meeting of April 24, 2007](#), were approved as distributed

QUESTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR

Laurel answered a question concerning Library staff working in the Town Clerk's office and in other libraries that are being overly burdened with Wethersfield residents during the renovation. There are no funds in the 2007-2008 Library budget to provide this assistance. How staff is utilized is a Board decision.

Laurel answered a question on Budget Explanations concerning the renewal of the antiques reference database. She also explained areas of the Action Fund, i.e., the base state grant of \$1200. She said that she would like to use the state

grant and Connecticut money to hire a consultant to re-design the Library's Web page. She answered questions concerning the Operating Budget.

Laurel distributed the Trust Fund Report.

OPERATING BUDGET FOR 2007-2008

Laurel distributed information on the impact of the Town Hall's moving into Library space. Council made a \$100,000 reduction in the Library's budget for next year. The majority of these funds is the result of savings because the Library is not moving into the new space. The materials budget was not cut.

Laurel distributed the final Library budget with the \$100,000 cut and the Town Budget with cuts and items added back in.

SUMMER LIBRARY SERVICES

Laurel distributed information on the children's summer reading programs with the Egyptian mummy theme: Wrapped Up in Reading. Events include Pizza and Pages, Drop-in Picnic Lunch Storytime, and a Harry Potter Book Discussion.

The Library will continue to provide summer reading books for the schools. The titles on the school's reading list are new this year. The school system will order \$500 worth of books.

Liz Kirkpatrick distributed information on this summer's adult reading program led by Dr. B.J. Smith of Charles Wright School in Tacoma, Washington. The theme is Odd One Out, and the titles are as follows: *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon, *Daisy Miller* by Henry James, *The Soloist* by Mark Salzman, and *Bee Season* by Myra Goldberg. The discussions will be held from 7 to 9 in the Fireside Room in the Community Center on four Tuesdays in July beginning on July 10.

Liz also distributed an information sheet on The Author (Patricia Herchuk Sheehy) and the Artist (Jim Sheehy) book signing, reception, and art show to benefit the Library on Thurs., June 28 from 5:30 to 8:30 at the Solomon Welles House.

Ken Bastura will continue to offer four computer classes in the summer.

The Nominating Committee consists of Tracy Gionfriddo, Greg Bedula, and Howie Greenblatt. Tracy will email members so they can select a date to meet and come up with a slate of officers for next year.

Polly Moon reported that the Board Development Committee is going to interview one potential Board member on May 31. She also said that Chairman Curtin wants a Finance Committee and a Fundraising Committee. He wants the Board to be thinking of community outreach or a way to put the Library out in the forefront of the public consciousness. Perhaps this could be a Community Connections Committee.

At 7:59 Paul Courchaine moved to go into executive session to discuss union negotiations and personnel matters. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

Laurel Goodgion and Liz Kirkpatrick remained.

At 8:10 Laurel Goodgion and Liz Kirkpatrick left.

At 8:17 Tracy Gionfriddo moved to come out of executive session. Greg Bedula seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:18 Tracy Gionfriddo moved to adjourn. Paul Courchaine seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady
Secretary