

## **Wethersfield Library Board Minutes of March 28, 2006**

**Members Present:** Donna Brown, Greg Curtin, Susan Grady, Gene Grayson, Howard Greenblatt, Brad Milvae, Polly Moon, Karen Mortensen, Lucille Plouffe.

**Staff Present:** Laurel Goodgion, Director; Liz Kirkpatrick, Asst. Director

**Also Present:** Nancy DesRochers, Secretary of the Friends of the Library

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Greg Curtin called the meeting to order at 7:00.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** NONE

### **FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY**

Nancy DesRochers, Secretary of the Friends of the Library, reported that the Friends made \$641 on their book sale held on Sat., March 25. The remaining books were taken to storage at PaperPath.

**COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:** NONE

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

[The minutes of February 28, 2006](#), were approved as distributed.

### **REPORTS**

Chairman Curtin noted that statistics were up even though the renovation is going on.

Director Laurel Goodgion distributed an article from the CT Friends of the Library newsletter which contained an excellent description of the difference between municipal and association libraries.

Eight library staff members attended various parts of the American Library Association Conference held in Boston. Fifteen staff members will attend the Connecticut Library Conference in May.

### **RENOVATION**

Laurel passed around some of Town Engineer Mike Turner's photos of the demolition. Concern was expressed about the staff during the times the library will be closed because of the renovation. There will be two closures: a shorter one and then a longer one. The shorter one will be from May 1-21. Discussion followed about setting up a temporary library somewhere. There is no budget to re-locate the Library. There will be a need to set up phones, the internet, etc.

Donna Brown arrived at 7:20.

There is a need to offer some service somewhere, especially during the longer closing: set up the most popular things, circulation, etc. Tomorrow Library Director Laurel Goodgion and Assistant Director Liz Kirkpatrick will meet with Building Committee Chairman Joe Coombs and Town Engineer Mike Turner to discuss the longer closing.

### **BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Greg Curtin distributed "Performance Expectations of the Individual Board Member-Policy of Wethersfield Public Library Board of Directors." These will be given to prospective Board members. The committee will also make the two town Screening Committees aware of these performance expectations and explain what the Board is doing in regard to recruiting new Board members, since three members will be leaving in June. It is important to stress the importance of these positions, as the Library Board is a governing Board, not simply an advisory one.

### **PROPOSED TOWN CIO POSITION**

The following was moved by Polly Moon, seconded by Lucille Plouffe, and passed by the Library Board:

The Wethersfield Public Library Board of Directors agrees that a need exists for the townwide position of CIO and expresses its full support. However, given the restrictions in the present budget and the impact that the renovation and union negotiations will have on the 2006-2007 budget, the Library Board is unable to participate financially in the funding of the position for the 2006-2007 fiscal year. The Library Board will follow with interest the CIO's progress with the town and Board of Education and will re-evaluate its financial position when preparing the 2007-2008 fiscal year budget.

### **BUDGET MESSAGE**

The Library budget will be presented to the Town Council at 5:30 on Wed, April 12, 2006. All Board members need to be there. The Board needs to explain the impact of the renovation (library closures), staff workload, staffing of the new children's room, comparison to other libraries as demonstrated in the Hennen Report. Library services should also be stressed. The results of the Library survey can be used to enlighten the Council as to the high value and importance of the Library in the minds of the survey respondents.

The public hearing on the town budget will be held on Mon., April 17. The Library needs people to attend in support of the Library budget. Residents can simply state what the Library means to them.

At 7:55 Gene Grayson moved to go into executive session in order to discuss union issues. Brad Milvae seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:04 Donna Brown moved to end executive session. Lucille Plouffe seconded. The motion carried.

At 8:05 Brad Milvae moved to adjourn. Gene Grayson seconded. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Grady  
Secretary