

From: SimsburyCT Postings May 14, 2010 11:11:34 AM
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To: SimsburyCT_LibraryMin
Cc:

SIMSBURY PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING

Monday,

April 19, 2010

THESE MINUTES HAVE BEEN APPROVED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD

PRESENT: Charmaine Glew, Joy Himmelfarb, Gail Ryan, Anne Erickson, Diane Madigan, Jeff Blumenthal. James Miller, Head of Adult Services and Eileen Sickinger, Recording Secretary.

Public Audience: Don Zaylor

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. by Mrs. Glew, Chair. Mrs. O'Neil moved the minutes of the March 15, 2010 meeting be approved. Second: G. Ryan. The minutes were approved.

The agenda was amended to add item 1A for Mr. Zaylor to address the Board.

Mr. Zaylor was at the meeting as a senior citizen asking that more emphasis be placed on senior activities at the Library. He had a copy of the Avon Library's webpage where senior activities are prominently listed.

Simsbury's webpage does list the Homebound Program, an activity run by Friends. The Board reviewed suggestions such as afternoon movies, more interaction with the Senior Center and music and literature programs scheduled during daytime hours. Marketing these activities to attract people would be essential with no guarantee of the results. The current shortage of staff, due to budget constraints, hinders the implementation of new programs and ideas. Mr. Zaylor's comments will be given serious consideration as the Board begins its preparation of their new long-range plan.

Rich Sawitzke was expected to attend the meeting but was unable to do so.

COMMUNICATIONS: Mrs. Glew had a letter from Elizabeth Burt, Thomas Lynch and Stacey Savin regarding the installation of the RFID program. They were concerned that the self-checkout would remove the human component of library services. Mrs. Glew will assure them that this program will free-up the staff to make them more available to patrons.

REPORTS: Friends: Mrs. Glew reported that a trip to New York City's Frick

Museum and the Neue Gallerie on June 3rd is planned by Friends.

The Luise Bernkopf remembrance will be held on May 8th.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for May 13th with Dr. Bernie Siegel as the guest speaker.

There was no Personnel Report.

Decorating: A banner for the Friends Café is being designed.

Three more Herman Miller chairs (for computers) are being ordered.

Building: Friends have sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen about payment to Pierce Builders for the reconfiguration of the staff room. The contract has been prepared.

Landscaping: The clean-up of the flower beds will begin soon.

Parking: Concern over the speeding on Eaglewood Lane and how to control it was discussed. Mr. Sawitzke is expected at the May meeting and ideas on how to resolve the problem will be reviewed. Different types of speed bumps were considered, but not a first choice.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Replacement of the outdoor sign will be discussed next month.

Mrs. Glew did some research on the purchase of an electric scooter that could be used by the handicapped. Safety, storage and mishandling of such a vehicle were discussed. The primary concern is safety and Mrs. Glew will address this issue when contacting the individual making the request.

Since it appears there will be a lack of a quorum at the May and June meetings they have been rescheduled to May 10th and June 28th. The Town Clerk will be advised. The meetings of the task force for the long-range plan have been scheduled for April 27th at 10:00 A.M. and May 24th at 6:30 P.M. For those who are available to learn about the recent workshop on "Having an Effective Board" a meeting will be held at 5:30 P.M. on April 26th.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: In Mrs. Bullock's absence Mr. Miller reviewed her written report.

Highlights were: The unexpended appropriations for the building project must be expended by June 30th. It appears a request will have to be made to the Finance Committee for the funds to remain open for the parking project. The Board will be notified of the date of the meeting when this is to be discussed.

The memorial tree for which funds have been received has not been planted. A request to Tom Roy has been made for these funds to be expended and the tree planted.

It appears grant money may be available for new technology projects through the Hartford Foundation, as well as a continuation of the current Learning Center Technology Grant. Mrs. Bullock will be working on these grants.

The possibility of obtaining a grant from the Connecticut State Library for the digitalizing of the old Valley Herald is being researched.

The annual ConnectiCard funds will be higher this year since the Library lent more books to other libraries than were borrowed. Mrs. Bullock

proposed earmarking these funds for the RFID equipment.
Planning for the summer programs has started.
The first "Stand Against Racism" program is set for April 30th. This is being coordinated with other town departments.
The new Kindle is proving to be a huge success.
The preparations for the RFID program are moving along and the starting date is still set for July 1st.

The fine amnesty discussed earlier in the year is tentatively scheduled for June. The week of the second anniversary of the opening of the new addition was proposed. It was suggested that instead of imposing the usual monetary fine a donation for the Town's food pantry be substituted for late returns. Collection boxes would be available.

BUDGET: The budget continues to be on target.

At 8:55 P.M. J. Blumenthal moved for adjournment. Second: M. O'Neil. So moved.

Anne Erickson, Secretary