

**Simsbury Public Library – Board of Trustees  
Town of Simsbury, Connecticut  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
Monday, February 6, 2023, at 7:00 P.M.  
Simsbury Public Library – Weatogue Room and Zoom**

**Present:** Lisa Karim, Director of Simsbury Public Library; Kathleen Miller, Chair of Library Board of Trustees; Polly Rice, Vice Chair of Library Board of Trustees; Holly McGrath, Secretary of Library Board of Trustees; Greg Golinski, President of the Friends of the Library; Tolly Gibbs, Mary Glassman, Mark Orenstein, and Susan Rubenstein.

**Absent:** Dave Blume and Linda Johnson.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. Rice called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 19, 2022**

**MOTION:** Mr. Orenstein made a motion to accept the Minutes for the December 19, 2022, meeting as written. Ms. McGrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**PUBLIC AUDIENCE**

Colleen Yates and Laurie Shinaman were in attendance but did not present.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Ms. Rice reported that Linda Johnson resigned from the Library Board of Trustees effective today. Her position on the Board expires December 4<sup>th</sup> and will need to be filled.

**FRIENDS REPORT**

Mr. Golinski reported that “Night of 1,000 Stars” will be Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Golinski reported that Ms. Karim had submitted a couple of requests for some funding of projects that he will be taking to the Investor Angels.

**CHAIR’S REPORT**

No report.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Karim reported that the two projects that were submitted to the Friends were purchasing round tables for the Coffee House Concerts on Fridays and purchasing a sublimation printer for the Innovators' Workshop. The total would be about \$11,000.

Ms. Karim reported that the Library staff has decided to do a year of inclusivity and belonging where every month, beginning in June (PRIDE Month), there will be pins available for staff and the public to wear that highlight and celebrate disenfranchised groups, ethnicities, and other cultural celebrations.

Ms. Karim reported that the Library has returned to programming with the DEI Council, with a series of "Community Conversations Fostering Change" programs, with the first topic being anti-Semitism that the rabbis from the Farmington Valley Jewish Congregation will be facilitating.

Ms. Karim reported that the elevator continues to get stuck which is a barrier to access. The design work for the three elevators in town has been completed and funding for their replacement is going through the budget process. Once it is approved, we are optimistic the new elevators will be installed in late summer or early fall.

Ms. Karim reported that the Business and Career Center Coordinator position was offered to a preferred candidate who then declined the offer. The position is still vacant but is still posted and will be promoted again next month.

Ms. Karim reported that the Library had a teen program called "Safe Dating for Teens."

Ms. Karim reported that the Library will be doing a collaborative program with the Senior Center at Eno Hall in June - "Drag Queen Bingo."

## **PEGPETIA GRANT**

Ms. Karim reported that the Library is requesting funding for a Smart Meeting Pod which is a four-person unit that fits into the BCC but is modular so it can be moved. It has a screen for video conferencing and is soundproof. The Library is also applying for podcasting and webcasting equipment. The air in the Pod refreshes itself every 76 seconds and has an air filter that runs consistently and is silent. The grant is just over \$26,000 and goes before the Board of Selectmen next week for approval. It is due February 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **LIBRARY OFFICE HOURS**

Ms. Karim reported that the Library will have Office Hours on Wednesday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, from 4 – 5 P.M. in the Barnes Room. The Town Manager, Maria Capriola; Heather Goetz, the Library liaison to the Board of Selectmen; and Ms. Karim and Ms. Rice will be present so the community can come and express their ideas, concerns, thoughts, etc.

## **BUDGET 2023-2024**

Ms. Karim reported that the increase in salary funds for the part time librarians got transferred from the Service Improvement to the Contingency Fund. The part time staff will get a pay increase July 1<sup>st</sup>, and this also allows for them to get salary increases every year.

Ms. Karim reported that the increase of \$4,500 for teen materials was removed from the proposed operating budget and added as a service improvement.

## **FINANCE REPORT**

Ms. Karim reported that Part Time Adult Staff is far over budget because they are covering the information desk shifts that the BCC Coordinator and those on medical leave would have worked.

Ms. Karim reported that Facilities Maintenance is also over budget because of the elevator.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Not necessary.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Mr. Orenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Glassman seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Rice adjourned the meeting at 7:22 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amanda Blaze  
Commission Clerk