

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD

WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY BOARD

Meeting of December 2, 2014 - Unapproved

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:

Dorene Ciarcia, Martha Conneely, Peter Denegre, Hannah Granfield, Laila Mandour

EXCUSED:

Joseph Aguiar, Mary Frazeur, George Kelly, Laila Mandour

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brook Berry, Library Director
Jeff Kotkin, Council Liaison
Carolyn Vallieres, Friends Co-Chair
Julie Konopka, Friends Co-Chair
Rosario Pulino, Raymond James Financial Services

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Friends Co-Chairs Carolyn Vallieres and Julie Konopka gave the board members a little background of their work experience. The Friends are planning two books sales a year. The November book sale raised \$7,770. The Friends are also exploring more fundraising activities including a “pre” book sale event with refreshments and another opera night. The Friends had a town-wide mailing that brought in 68 new members.

COUNCIL LIAISON

Jeff Kotkin reported that the healthcare costs are increasing and if the trend continues there will be more pressure on the budget. There will likely be no funds in the budget for new initiatives this year. A committee was formed to look at shared services in the town to save costs, with thoughts of bringing the library into those shared services, but because the library outsources so much, its likely that the library will not be included.

LIBRARY BOARD CHAIRMAN

Dorene Ciarcia reported that the library retreat went very well and the presentation on Freedom of Information yielded excellent and useful information for the board members. There will be a special meeting of the board on January 6, 2015 at 7 PM at the library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Brook Berry reported that in October and November she attended many Friends activities. Brook attended the shared services meeting and she reported that the library is looking into joining the town's email system. The library received a \$250 donation from Misty Stuart, whose husband was on the library board several years ago. Brook reported she has started meeting with each of the town council members to find out what their aspirations are for Wethersfield relative to the library. The mitten tree is up and will be up through January 3, 2015. Brook also reported that she is working in collaboration with other town agencies to have more programs for children and teens at the library. Additionally, she is working on several grants to secure additional funding for the library and on the State Library Report. The library is on track with its budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Finance Committee

Rosario Pulino reported on the status of the investment funds. In that regard, the board discussed where to put the dividends from the Sjoman fund and how to better use the library endowment fund. Rosario advised that the dividends from the Sjoman funds would be more accessible for use by the library (consistent with the bequest) by placing the dividends into a cash account, which can be used or accumulated for later use.

There was discussion about the Library Endowment Fund (also known as the Library Trust Fund). This is also a long-term fund and unrestricted.

There was also discussion about the Library Legacy Fund, which is also an unrestricted account, which was intended to grow. Discussion was had regarding growing this fund and investing the fund into "C" shares.

There was discussion about the Finance Committee and the board members reviewing and revising the financial policy in the near future.

- Outreach Committee

No report.

INVESTMENT FUNDS OF THE WETHERSFIELD LIBRARY

Discussed under the Financial Committee report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION