

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – April 15, 2014

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

Members Present: Steve Arendt, Acting Chair; Ellrony Williams; Ernest Gibbons; Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas; Sally Gauch; Susan Hester

Others Present: Theresa Coish, Library Director; Sue Connor; Candise Pruitt; Barbara VonVillas, Town Council liaison to the library.

Members Absent: Paul LaMond

--Meeting called to order at 6:14 P.M. by Steve Arendt, Acting Chair

Condolences to Mr. Gibbons on loss of his wife this past week.

Disposition of Minutes:

--Minutes of March 18, 2014 meeting reviewed. Motion to accept: Gauch Second: Hester. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence received: Thanks from June Wing, gardener,

including \$25 in memory of Blanche Sefton, former board member of the library. Letter from Paul LaMond to Town of Middletown: resignation from tree commission and library board due to illness.

Motion to accept correspondence as read: Dionne-Thomas Second: Gauch. Unanimously carried.

New Business: Friends Letter of Agreement was presented by Lois Murray. The Letter of Agreement sets out the responsibilities of the Friends Book Store and the Library and refers to including the Town and/or the Library as additional insured on any liability insurance. Ms. Murray indicated the Friends secured general liability agreement for members of the Friends who are engaging in Friends' business who may get into accident. Board will consult with town administration, including at least the town administrator and town solicitor, to determine the propriety of such an agreement, its terms and conditions, and the proposed 10 year term.

Barbara Von Villas, Town Council Liaison, discussed Unified High School Committee Survey; she asked meeting attendees what they wished to know. Some of the questions raised:

--How would unification impact library in terms of circulation, collection?

--What are expectations of the library if Middletown goes forward with unified district?

--What are the performance metrics that would be addressed by

joining forces?

--Any predictions as to whether unification would improve graduation rates? Will learning conditions change?

--What would be the cost to towns?

--How would administration be broken down?

--What would be the staffing issues?

--Need to address croneyism

--Would there be a merger of staff that already exists or something else?

--Will vacancies be addressed open-mindedly?

--Program and goals should be defined.

Ms. Von Villas encouraged attendees to address question on town website regarding regionalization.

Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Theresa Coish orally reviewed information provided in her Director's Report. Additional items: Art works (water color exhibit) displayed in the Hall Room and include pieces by home-schooled family and early Alzheimer's patient. 75% expended on utilities at this point in time in the fiscal year. Theresa gave her supervisors training in sexual harassment prevention that she had already received.

Motion to accept Director's Report: Hester Second: Dionne-Thomas Unanimously carried.

Motion made to revise policy that would extend time of loaning e-readers from 2 to 3 weeks.

--Motion to accept: Hester Second: Gauch Unanimously carried.

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: Presentation to town council will occur in early May.

--Contract Negotiations: No report.

--Director's Evaluation: Sally Gauch, chair of committee, will be addressing in the near future.

--Friends Liaison: Lois Murray spoke earlier. Nothing further.

--Policy Review: No report.

Unfinished Business: None.

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None

Executive Session:

--Executive Session began at 7:45 P.M.

--Executive Session adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

**Motion to seal minutes of executive session: Gauch Second: Hester
Unanimously carried.**

Announcements:

--Steve wanted members of the board to review letter of agreement from the Friends; it will be discussed further as part of Unfinished Business at the next meeting. Particular attention will be paid to the propriety of the agreement, the terms on the face of the agreement as well as the 10 year term and the signatories to the agreement (issues noted above).

--Theresa will discuss with the Friends the propriety of a gift for Paul LaMond. Tile will likely be given by the town and Theresa, with board assist, will draft appreciation letter to Paul similar to the one drafted for John Grisham when he resigned from the library board.

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 20, 2014 at 6:00 P.M., at the Library.

**--Motion to adjourn: Gauch Second: Hester Unanimously
carried**

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary