

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – August 18, 2015

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

Members Present: Steve Arendt, Chair; Ernest Gibbons; Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas; Susan Hester; Sally Gauch; and Christine Bagley

Other(s) Present: Theresa Coish, Library Director; Barbara VonVillas, Town Council liaison to the library; Sue Connor; Candise Prewitt

Member(s) Absent: Ellrony Williams

Other(s) Absent: None

--Meeting called to order at 6:07 p.m. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

Disposition of Minutes:

--Minutes of July 21, 2015 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept: Hester Second: Gauch. Unanimously carried.

Enter executive session; return to open session at 7:00 p.m.

Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session: Gauch Second:

Williams. Unanimously carried.

Tim Cavazza, Esq. presented consensus of the board on the new developments in the union contract as follows: explained board was in a difficult position; board and union were applauded by town council for how they handled negotiations and finalization of contract; library director has abided by contract as negotiated and 25 hour positions will be under terms of Exhibit B; 25% of holiday hours would be a given under the terms of the contract; but board will drop 5 hours and continue with two 20 hour positions if union continues to request increase in personal, sick, and annual leave hours for the two 25 hour persons.

Return to Executive Session; Return to open session 8:02 p.m.

Motion to seal minutes of Executive Session: Gauch. Second: Hester. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence received: three thank you letters from MLK Center: one for 138 lbs. food of non-perishable food to the pantry; one for 198 lbs. food of non-perishable food; one for 164 lbs. of non-perishable food. Email from Carol Anderheggen: request use of study room for tutoring on a priority basis instead of on a first come first serve basis as it is now. As it is now, Ms. Anderheggen states, the study room is often only used by one person. Board recommended to library director that she respond to the email thanking Ms. Anderheggen for

her interest and involvement but indicating to her that the library will continue with the first come first serve policy for use of the study room.

Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Theresa Coish orally reviewed information provided in her Director's Report. Additional comment: worked with an Eagle Scout who did library table repair as part of his Eagle project. Theresa thought this was an apt example of community outreach. While PC use is down, this can be explained by the fact that many more patrons come to the library with their own computers.

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

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: None

--Contract Negotiations: None other than the 20/25 hour per week positions.

--Director's Evaluation: None.

--Friends Liaison: None

--Long Range Planning: No report.

--Policy Review: The committee has not met.

Unfinished Business: Town Solicitor's decision regarding letter of agreement for use of building space for Friends Bookstore is still pending; proposal to provide the library director with a significant salary adjustment pending consultation with the Town Administrator.

New Business: None

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None.

Announcements:

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Library. Town invited volunteers to appreciation barbecue on September 10, 2015. Election of board offices will occur at September meeting.

--Motion to adjourn: Dionne-Thomas. Second: Hester. Unanimously carried

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary