

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting –December 20, 2016

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

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

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

Members Absent: None

Other(s) Absent: Sue Connor; Candise Pruitt (on leave)

--Meeting called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

Disposition of Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes of November 15, 2016 meeting: Gauch. Second: Williams. Unanimously carried.

Motion to go into Executive session: Dionne-Thomas. Second:

Hester. Unanimously carried.

Return to regular session: 6:47 p.m.

Motion to seal min of exec. Session: Gauch Second: Hester. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence received: MLK Community Center thanks for 181 lbs. of non-perishable food. Spivey and Fallon Attorneys in Sarasota, FL representing Bazarsky charitable trust sent a letter reflecting that the Beatrice and Samuel Z. Bazarsky Trust will donate \$2,000.00 per annum each to Newport, Middletown, and Portsmouth Public Libraries for so long as any of them exist. Distribution from trust will occur as soon as trustee is advised to do so by his tax counsel in RI.

Maher Center Gallery: thanks for gallery opening and displaying of the photos.

Candise Pruitt submitted a letter reflecting she will return to work on Monday January 2, 2017.

Card from library staff to board wishing all a Merry Christmas.

Jean Rooney, a weekly volunteer for more than 20 years, sent thanks for a gift card she received in appreciation of her efforts.

Ernie Gibbons summarized the message contained in his holiday card sent to the board.

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

Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Theresa Coish orally reviewed information provided in her Director's Report.

Additional Information: None

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

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: Steve Arendt circulated the proposed FY18 budget for review and discussion at the January 2017 meeting. He noted that a ledger on the second page reflects a 1.25% increase; p. 3 reflects a municipal appropriation of .65%. This is about the same as last year. RI Grant in Aid is thanks to Lou DiPalma. Grossman bequest is about \$12,000.00. That will lower further the municipal appropriation. In the future, the Bazarsky funds will lower the municipal appropriation even further. This is -0- based budgeting.

--Director's Evaluation: None

--Friends Liaison: None; next meeting Dec. 21, 2016. Friends need to review its finances and will be bringing things up to date. Theresa Coish and Lois Murray will talk about space planning for bookstore.

--Policy Review: None

Unfinished Business: Proposal from Dr. Jones: Steve and Theresa met with Shawn and Shawn said they should pursue with the sense that there should be some plans that might be implemented in the future. Vision may not be able to be defined at the moment but there will be a sense for a recital/performance hall. Recommendation was to keep the term as perhaps “performance room or hall” which could include theatre arts and other events, including musical ones. Plans are for Theresa to invite Dr. Jones to do a presentation, as he had offered, perhaps in the spring since the weather would be better and likely to attract more people.

New Business: Revise part-time library assistant job description in accordance with what Theresa Coish circulated. Motion to accept revised position description for part-time library assistant: Williams. Second: Dionne-Thomas. Unanimously carried.

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None.

Announcements:

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Library.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary