

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – June 20, 2017

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

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

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

Members Absent: None

Others Absent: Candise Prewitt

--Meeting called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

**Motion to seal the minutes of the executive session: Dionne-Thomas
Second: Hester. Unanimously carried. (Motion made at meeting held on August 15, 2017.)**

Enter executive session; return to open session at 6:45 p.m.

Disposition of Minutes:

Motion to accept minutes of May 16, 2017 meeting: Hester. Second: Williams. Unanimously carried.

Correspondence received: Thanks from MLK Center, by letter dated May 11th for 95 lbs. of non-perishable food; by letter dated May 17th for 144 lbs.

Motion to accept correspondence received: Gauch. Second: Williams. Unanimously carried.

Director's progress and financial reports on the library: Theresa Coish orally reviewed information provided in her Director's Report. She added that the Chess Club will start this coming Thursday.

Lois Murray of the Friends attended the meeting and she and Theresa spoke of their visit to the Newport Public Library where the then director, Anne Shepherd, mentioned Reading Tree which picks up bins of books that are neither usable for collection or sale. Reading Tree picks up books free of charge. Lois and Theresa both believe this would be a good way to dispose of books that are either not suitable for the library itself or for sale by the Friends.

Since then, Theresa learned that Reading Tree is no longer in existence. However Thrifty Books is a for profit entity where 50% of

what Thrifty receives is sold on Amazon or by them with no shipping fee; 25% is donated to literacy groups and underfunded libraries; last 25% is recycled. Big Hearted Books is another company that collects books and clothing and they are for profit. Both Theresa and Lois would like to explore the possibility of using such entities to address surplus books.

Motion to support library director in conjunction with the Friends in using various available tools to streamline the book recycling process: Bagley. Second: Dionne-Thomas. Unanimously carried.

Theresa will be interviewing this week for replacement of recent personnel vacancies that have occurred in 2017.

Theresa expanded on the biography of Dr. John Gosch-Barker whose family would like to install an exterior granite bench in memory of Dr. Gosch-Barker, an avid library user. Dr. Gosch-Barked died just shy of his 92nd birthday. He donated his body to Brown Medical School and his memorial service will be held perhaps in a few years.

In the meantime, on Sunday Oct. 22, 2017 the family would like to hold a gathering at the library where they can come to sense Dr. Gosch-Barker's presence and begin to move forward with the bench donation. The library director has reached out to Theresa Santos of the Middletown Memorial Committee; once she receives a response from Ms. Santos, the library director would like to work with the

family to allow this donation to proceed.

It was the consensus of the board that it would support Theresa in her efforts to move forward with this bequest and support this effort desired by Dr. Gosch-Barker's family.

There is a bill before the General Assembly that would include vaping e-cigarettes and other miscellaneous items containing nicotine such as candy into the definition of nicotine products; e-cigarettes and vaporizers would join cigarettes in being banned from most indoor public places in RI. There would be no local ordinance needed if the legislation passes. This would address concerns of the library with control of e-cigarettes in and around its spaces.

Digital services: Sue Connor and Theresa demonstrated new library software acquired about a month ago that was used to create a new home page and make the local website more attractive and easier to use. The library director would like it to go live by July 1 but will keep the current site going until it is certain the new site fully serves library purposes.

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

New Business: None.

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: Town Council passed budget.

--Director's Evaluation: Reported out.

--Friends Liaison: Next meeting of the Friends will be held on June 21, 2017; noted was that the President of Friends elected in March of 2017 has resigned.

--Policy Review: Consideration will be given to revising Section III of the Library Employee Handbook to address page positions.

Unfinished Business: Proposal from Dr. Jones: Dr. Jones's second session was held June 20th; it was well-received by 14 persons in attendance. It was a "Jazz Greats" musical presentation.

New Business: None

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None.

Announcements:

--The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, August 15, 2017 at 6:00 P.M. at the Library. There will be no monthly July, 2017 meeting unless the library director determines it is

necessary.

Motion to Adjourn: Dionne-Thomas. Second: Gauch. Unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:59 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary