

Middletown Public Library Board of Trustees

Minutes of Meeting – March 20, 2018

Middletown Public Library

700 West Main Road

Middletown, Rhode Island

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

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

Members Absent: Mark Nuytkens

Others Absent: Candise Prewitt

--Meeting called to order at 6:06 p.m. by Steve Arendt, Chair.

Disposition of Minutes:

**Motion to accept minutes of February 20, 2018 meeting: Williams.
Second: Gauch. Unanimously carried.**

Correspondence received:

-- Deb Ruggiero sent thank you to Theresa for all her efforts on behalf of the Middletown Public Library; she also thanked Theresa for use of the conference room for a constituent meeting; she included a check to the library for \$100 from Friends of Deb Ruggiero.

--MLK Center sent a thank you dated February 15, 2018 for 99 lbs. of non-perishable food and one dated March 8, 2018 for 122 lbs.

--Correspondence dated March 19, 2018 received by Theresa from Dr. Jones: Extensive discussion occurred relative to the proposed donation by Dr. William Jones of his musical equipment and his home for the benefit of the library. It was the consensus of the board that the board does not have authority to make any decisions related to this bequest and that Dr. Jones should be discussing matters with the Town of Middletown council and/or administrator. It was recommended to Theresa that she have no further discussions of the matter with Dr. Jones and that she refer him to town authorities.

Theresa noted that the Friends had also been separately approached about accepting the terms of the bequest which Dr. Jones plans to place in a revocable trust until his death. While the Friends operates separately as a non-profit 501 (c)(3) entity, since the Friends operates to the benefit of the library, a Town of Middletown asset, Theresa was encouraged to share with the Friends the Library Board's consensus that all matters/discussions related to the proposed legacy of Dr. Jones, remain between Dr. Jones and the Town of Middletown administrator and the Town Council rather than between Dr. Jones and the Library Board and/or the Friends of the Library.

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

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

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

Committee reports:

--Budget Committee: Steve Arendt circulated and discussed the Proposed FY-19 Library Budget.

Motion to accept FY-19 Budget Proposal Report as amended: Arendt. Second: Dionne-Thomas. Unanimously carried.

--Director's Evaluation: Under construction; Theresa will provide goals; committee will have completed library director's evaluation by June of 2018.

--Friends Liaison: Next monthly meeting of the Friends will be held March 28, 2018 although date not finalized. Predicted weather conditions led to the cancellation of the March 21, 2018 meeting.

--Policy Review: Committee will consider drafting a policy on receiving bequests.

Unfinished Business: See budget proposal discussion above.

New Business: None.

Public presentation to or discussion with the Board: None

Announcements:

-- The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will take place on Tuesday, April 17, 2018 at 6:00 P.M. at the Library.

**-- Motion to Adjourn: Gibbons. Second: Dionne-Thomas.
Unanimously carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Lucie-Anne Dionne-Thomas

Secretary