

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
November 23, 2009

Present: Peter Authier; Abigail Cahill Kagan; Peter Coffin (Chair); Barbara Dobbin; Lori Dowling; Karin Fallon; Thomas Hoban; Liz Kelly; Philip Lodewick; Brian Oren; Cloris Pearson; Eileen Walker; Bill Wyman

Others present: Director Christina Nolan (ex-officio); Bob Leavitt, President-Friends of the Ridgefield Library; Mary Rindfleisch, Hope Swenson, Emerita; Leslie Vuilleumier

Excused: Mark Meachem; Bob Payne

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Coffin called the Board meeting to order on November 23, 2009 at 7:30 pm in the Dayton Program Room of the Ridgefield Library.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 26, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Announcements

Peter Coffin thanked the Board Members for their support of the Annual Appeal.

The holiday lights on the lamp posts in front of the Morris Building have been installed thanks to Karin Fallon and her family. There will be luminaries on the Friday night of the Holiday Stroll also.

Consent Agenda

Due to Chris Nolan's illness there is no Director's report this month.

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda, including the Communications Committee Report, the Development Committee Report, and Executive Committee Report was made and approved.

Friends of the Library

The Friends of the Library would like to host the Friends and Board mixer in February in an effort to tie the two boards closer together.

Finance Committee

A resolution of the Board of Directors of the Ridgefield Library and an amendment to the Ridgefield Library Pension Plan were read. A motion to accept these was made, voted on and approved. Full payments for the year 2008-09 have been made for the old Pension Plan. This plan will be frozen and full benefits will be available to employees. The committee wants to start the new plan January 1, 2010. A consultant has been hired to set up the new plan and will work with the employees. A contributory type plan is being discussed.

The consulting agreement with R. Bryan Associates, LLC amended for the term to end on June 30, 2010 was proposed. The purpose is to have continuity with the new Director of

APPROVED

Development. The retainer hours will be changed from 16 per month to 20. This amendment was voted on and approved.

The Finance Committee recommended approval of a Feasibility Study to be done by R. Bryan Associates, LLC. This will be completed by mid-February. The Study was approved by the full Board.

Investment Report - As the stock market comes back, the committee is encouraged; gains can be seen reflected in the Investment Report.

Development Committee

Annual Appeal – The town wide mailing of 9,142 pieces will be sent out by Wednesday. To date, the Appeal and Guardian Society donations from the top 300 donors have increased by more than 40% when compared to their donation of the prior year. Chris Nolan thanked Philip Lodewick for “planting the seed” with the Guardian Society concept. Cloris Pearson wanted to stress the thank you follow-up procedure – a call to the donor would be better than a personal note but a note would be acceptable also. Mary Rindfleisch will notify Board Members of Guardian Society contributions as they come in so a personal thank you can be made.

Books on the Common will be donating 15% of the proceeds of any patron that shows their library card when purchasing on November 27 -29 to the Library.

Sarah’s Wine Bar will be making a donation from their proceeds of March 17, 2010 to the Library as part of their non-profit donation events. Board Members are encouraged to attend.

Camp Snooze (October and November Weekends) and the Murder Mystery Party brought in \$18,000 for the Library.

Communication Committee

Task Force – There have been 3 meetings with the Task Force to date. The challenge placed before the Task Force is to save the bank building and build a new Library behind the Morris Building without increasing operating costs or staff. A presentation of the Library’s plan was given by Bill Wyman. The first piece of the plan was approved. A \$500,000 State grant is still available to the Library providing plans and contracts are sent to the State by December 2010.

As there was no further business, the Library Board adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant