

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
January 25, 2016

Present: Marc Colamaria (Board Chair); Matt Byrnes; Rob Ellis; Magda Fincham; Tom Gerhard; Woody Harford; Dean Miller; George Nichols; Mary Mann Smith; Bob Whitton; David Yaun

Others present: Chris Nolan, Library Director; Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Director; Laureen Bubniak, Director of Development; Leslie Vuilleumier, Executive Assistant; Julie Yuan, Friends of the Ridgefield Library

Excused: Amanda Bergen; Michele Booth; Gary Rapp; Rhonda Hill, Friends of the Ridgefield Library

Call to Order

Board Chair Marc Colamaria called the Board meeting to order at 7:35 pm on January 25, 2016 in the Randolph Board Room at the Ridgefield Library.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 14, 2015 Library Board meeting were approved with corrections.

Friends of the Ridgefield Library

Julie Yaun reported on the Friends activities since Rhonda was not with us this evening. Dorothy Pawlowski, Adult Department Head, will share information about the selection process to add to the collection to help the Friends become more acquainted with that process. This information will be helpful to those who help in sorting donations of books which come in.

The next Book Sale is scheduled for May. Internet sales have been very successful. A local Library wants to discuss internet sales with the Friends. The Friends continue to find places interested in using the left-overs from the book sales. These donations have gone to local food pantries, veterans, and some schools as well as area non-profits.

Chairman's Announcement

Marc Colamaria, Board Chair announced that they (Dean Miller, Gary Rapp, Marc Colamaria and Chris Nolan) met with Rudy Marconi, First Selectman, and with Kevin Redman, Town Comptroller, to discuss the Library's 2016-17 budget in early January. Two one-time town requests for a new Library Director Search Firm and a website redesign were also discussed. (The town's policy is not to hire search firms although one was used by Board of Ed recently.) The Town Selectman meeting to discuss the Library's budget is scheduled for February 3, 8 PM. Mary Rindfleisch, Gary Rapp, Marc Colamaria and Bob Whitton will attend. Other staff and board members are encouraged to also be there.

Finance Committee

Hiring a search firm to fill the position of Library Director was discussed. Other libraries in the area have used such firms and have had good results. Three nearby communities elected not to

use a search firm and in each case, the hires were problematic and required a second hire. The benefit of using a specialized firm for the position of library director is the firm knows many of the potential candidates and understands their strengths.

Development Committees

Endowment – A meeting is scheduled for January 26 for the Endowment Campaign.

Development – On Sunday, January 24, the Library hosted an event for the Guardian Society members in the Lodewick Children’s Library. Chris Nolan announced her retirement at the end of 2016. The Guardian Society members were asked for suggestions as to how to get the message of “filling the gap” in the Library’s budget out to the public. All suggestions were recorded and the Development Committee will pursue them.

Chris Nolan met with the Men’s Group to get the message of “filling the gap” out to the Town. The Communications Committee is working on this message and how to present it. It was suggested the Library have its own Giving Day to help meet the funding of the “gap”.

The Gala committee is working diligently. Ira Joe Fischer will be the MC for the evening, Sarah Bouissou will be catering the event and the Save the Dates will be mailed soon.

Other Fund Raisers coming up are: Feb 6 – Teen Trivia, Feb 20 – Hard Drive Smash Day and Summer 2016 – ComiCon now called “RidgeCon”.

Update of the Search

At this time, three well respected search firms have been contacted. One firm cannot assist the Library due to their overwhelming commitments.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant