

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
May 22, 2017

Present: Amanda Bergen, Secretary; Steve DeMatteo; Rob Freeman; Tom Gerhard; Alison Greeley; Woody Harford; Tizzie Mantione; Dean Miller, Chair; Gary Rapp, Treasurer; Mary Mann Smith; Bob Whitton, Vice-Chair; David Yaun

Others present: Brenda McKinley, Library Director; Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Director; Laureen Bubniak, Director of Development; Julie Yaun, Friends of Ridgefield Library; Leslie Vuilleumier, Executive Assistant; Incoming 2017-18 Board Members, Jeroen van Beek and Lynn Consentino; John Casiello and Ann Victor, Collection Management Specialists

Excused: Michele Booth; Matt Byrnes; Magda Fincham

Call to Order

Board Chair Dean Miller called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM in the Dayton Program Room at the Ridgefield Library.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 24, 2017 Library Board meeting were approved with corrections.

Director's Report

Brenda McKinley sent out her director report to the Board. The Library welcomed the new Children's Services Department Head, Kristina Lareau on Monday, May 15. Dorothy Pawlowski and Carol Clark of the Adult Services Department are out on medical leave.

The Ridgefield Music and Arts Council (RMAC) has money from a building campaign they no longer are pursuing. The campaign money raised has been offered to the Library to use towards a stage/gazebo on the front lawn to be used by the Library and RMAC for their music endeavors. After talking to Rudy Marconi, First Selectmen and the Village District Commission, the Library will consider the location, maintenance and insurance aspects of this project. A further discussion by the Library Board will take place to determine if this offer is viable.

Staff Spotlight

Ann Victor and John Casiello gave a presentation on the upcoming 3rd Annual RidgeCon being held in the Library on August 11 and 12. Joining their committee will be Erica Gauquier, Shay Glass and Kristina Lareau. They gave a history of RidgeCon, the funding for RidgeCon, how they plan to broaden the fandom base, and other ComicCon events at Libraries include Avon and Ferguson Libraries. The committee would like to partner with businesses and Theater Groups in town this year. Ultimately, their goal is to be self-sustaining.

Friends Update

Julie Yaun announced the proceeds from the Children's Book Sale and the General Book Sale held in May came to \$22K. Leftover books went to two Women's Prisons, three other Friends organizations and some will be shipped to soldiers through the AnySoldier.com organization. The Ridgefield Thrift Shop in its new location on Governor Street has a huge book section, to which some books can be donated.

The Friends Annual Meeting will take place on June 5 in the Program Rooms.

The Friends will be providing 12 baskets for the Adult Summer Reading program. Through their books sales and internet sales the Friends have graciously agreed to fund the Ridgefield Library's new website up to an amount of \$30,000.

Finance Committee

Gary Rapp, Treasurer reported on the town budget cut of \$5K to the Library. Due to employee health benefit coverage choices, the health care savings will help close the \$5K gap. A motion to accept the Library's revised 2017-18 budget was made, seconded, voted on and approved. The Library will use the small surplus from the 2016-17 budget to repair the stone wall, HVAC and revise the electricity contract. Investments are up by 7%.

Development

Laureen Bubniak announced the Dashboard at the end of April was at 78%. The Gala brought in \$98K. A discussion on how to improve the Gala for next year took place. The Annual Appeal is at 98%. This year's Memorial Day parade theme will be LYL (Love Your Library) in anticipation of the LYL weekend, September 15-16. Other upcoming fund raisers are: Gallo Guest Bartender night on June 15; Ladies Paint Night on July 11; and LYL event on September 15-16. The LYL event will have mini-golf in the Library, a playwright's contest for High School and Middle School students; Camp Snooze is back, on November 11 & 18; Wild Game Dinner will be held mid-October; Guardian Society Social – Brunch by the Bite on a Sunday in October; BOTC (Books on the Common) Thanksgiving weekend proceeds to the Library and a Donor Event on Friday of the Holiday Stroll in December.

Strategic Planning

Alison Greeley and Rob Freeman are co-chairs for this committee. The other committee members are Gary Rapp, Dean Miller, David Yaun, Matt Byrnes, Liz Kelly, Brenda McKinley and Mary Rindfleisch. They would like the timing of the strategic plan to coincide with the Annual report in November.

Governance Committee

At this time, Jeroen Van Beek and Lynn Consentino were asked to leave. The Board voted on accepting Jeroen and Lynn as new board member subject to meeting with Rudy Marconi for his blessing. The motion was approved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant