

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
November 17, 2014

Present: Amanda Bergen; Shane Casey; Rob Ellis; Woody Harford; Liz Kelly; Philip Lodewick; Dean Miller; George Nichols; Gary Rapp; David Schaffer; 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; Rhonda Hill, Friends of the Ridgefield Library President

Excused: Matt Byrnes; Marc Colamaria (Board Chair)

Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Liz Kelly called the Board meeting to order at 7:30 pm on November 17, 2014 in the Donofrio Technology Center.

Staff Spotlight

Mary Beth Rassulo gave a presentation in the Tech Center covering STEM programs, Girls Who Code, SCRATCH, the Maker Faire Trip and the Donofrio Lecture Series Inspiring Girls in Science. These are all programs she organizes and runs for the Children's Services Department. The Board members were quite impressed with the nature of this programming and are eager to make sure the community knows the breadth of what we are offering. The Board relocated to the Leir Children's Program Room for the rest of the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 27, 2014 Library Board meeting were approved with corrections.

Friends Update

Rhonda Hill, President of the Friends reported there would be two intergenerational book discussions held at Ridgefield High School of Great Gatsby as part of The Big Read.

The Friends are having a meeting with other CT Libraries interested in the Ridgefield Library Friends online sales operation.

A number of books not sold at the last book sale were given to the New Milford Library. The May 2015 book sale will take place over 2 weekends. One weekend for children's books and the following weekend for the adult books.

Confirmation on Vote to Adopt the Audit

The Audit for 2013-14 FY was voted on and approved.

Development Committee

The Dashboard and Raised to Date were passed out. The Annual Appeal mailing went well with just a few more letters to be sent out. Donations total \$55,496 to date.

Fund Raising Events are as follows: Wild Game Dinner at Woody Harford's home with Gallo Restaurant catering. The Committee was looking to appeal to a different Demographic Group. Woody suggested a follow-up meeting soon after the event; Camp Snooze was held over two weekends in November and the number of campers totaled 95 4th graders; The Guardian Society event held at the Library and the Prospector for a tour had 60 people in attendance; the Downton Abbey Event is scheduled for December 7 with reservations coming in now; Books on the Common holds their Thanksgiving Weekend sales event by returning 15% of purchases of patrons on that weekend who show their Library Card; the Great Expectations Gala in the Spring will be honoring the Donofrios with a sit down dinner and program. Volunteers are working hard planning the event and searching for sponsors; the Teen Trivia event is scheduled for Saturday, December 13 with the Board sponsoring a team.

There will be a last call made for Ridgefielders to be part of the Wall of Donors.

Finance

The Finance Committee will be meeting December 1 to discuss the budget they are presenting at the December Board Meeting. This is a working session open to anyone on the Board to understand the proposed budget more fully.

Governance Committee

On behalf of the Governance Committee, Liz Kelly nominated Bob Whitton to be elected to position of Board Secretary. This position became vacant when Lorraine Mellon moved out of state. The Board will vote at the next meeting.

Philip Lodewick passed out Board Self -Assessment surveys. This is a major initiative of the Governance Committee this year. One is a self-assessment tool, the other is an assessment of the Board as a whole. The completed surveys should be returned in December. Report out on the data gathered will be presented in February.

Vice Chair Announcements

Christine Lodewick was honored last Friday at the Keeler Tavern as the Woman of the Year.

Mary Mann Smith will be retiring from her job on December 5.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant