

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
August 17, 2009

Present: Carroll Brewster, Emeritus; Peter Coffin (Chair); Barbara Dobbin; Lori Dowling; Karin Fallon; Thomas Hoban; Abigail Cahill Kagan; Philip Lodewick; Mark Meachem; Bob Payne; Cloris Pearson; Hope Swenson, Emeritus; Eileen Walker; Bill Wyman

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

Excused: Peter Authier; Liz Kelly; Brian Oren;

Call to Order

Chairman Peter Coffin called the Board meeting to order on August 17, 2009 at 7:35 pm in the Dayton Program Room of the Ridgefield Library.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting were approved as distributed.

Chairman's Announcements

Peter Coffin announced Mort Bailey had died on Friday, August 14, 2009. There will be a service for him at Meadow Ridge, 4 PM Thursday, August 27, 2009. A quarter-page ad will be purchased in his memory to appear in Thursday's Ridgefield Press.

The tax abatement for the Webster Bank property was approved. Peter thanked all who represented the Library at that meeting.

Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve the Consent agenda. Motion carried.

Friends of the Library

The Friends will be moving out of the Webster Bank building at the end of the month to their new location at 440 Main Street (lower level of The Gap).

The Friends Book Sale on Oct 16 -19 will be held completely in tents on the Webster Bank parking lot. The reception will also be in the tents. A cook-out organized by the Rotarians will be held at this event on Saturday, October 17, 2009 for the public.

Finance Committee

Investment Report – The investments are making money. A change has been made to the Investment Report to show monthly comparisons instead of quarterly.

The committee is looking into freezing the old pension and paying off the shortfall; switching Pension Companies; moving Pension investment decisions to the Personnel Committee.

A new two year service agreement with CorSystems including outsourcing the system backup and coverage if the Net Administrator leaves has been drawn up to provide continuity of the library's computer systems.

Chris Nolan is negotiating a new contract with Total Communications for a shorter contract period at renewal.

Webster Bank Update

Consideration of potential opportunity – An alternative proposal to selling the Webster Bank and property was suggested by Peter Coffin. It entailed selling a portion of the lower parking lot, moving the Webster Bank façade to that location and incorporate it into a new building by an interested party. Peter will be meeting with this interested party to discuss this possibility.

Task Force – Phil Lodewick spoke about developing a new Community Task Force which includes people from the Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance, Library Board and Community Leaders. The first meeting scheduled for September 3, 2009 will focus on the library's current needs and future expansion.

Public Comment Results – Bob Payne discussed the results of the 2400 emails sent out requesting opinions on the demolition of the Webster Bank Building. The library received 135 responses with 71% supportive of the demolition.

Upcoming Planning & Zoning decision – The Library may withdraw their application for demolition at this time.

Strategic Planning

The Vision Statement – “Ridgefield's community destination – A place where citizens can find lifelong education, information, culture and friends.” was accepted and approved.

Building Improvement Committee

Visioning Day with Leslie Burger – Leslie gave an hour long presentation to the staff, Board members & architects focusing on thinking about the library use in new ways. She met with groups of individuals for the remainder of the day. She will be getting back to us with the results and suggestions from that day's meetings.

The committee continues to work on a renovation plan and will have cost projections for the September 28, 2009 Board meeting. They continue to work with Newman and have a new General Contractor.

Development

A kick-off event on September 17, 2009 to include the top 300 donors or prospects (formerly the Board to Board event) will be held at the Lodewick's home. The new Library Guardian Society will be presented this evening. The Annual Appeal mailing will go out two weeks after this event.

Other events coming up are The Walker Library cocktail party for the Top 50 Donors, A Murder Mystery Dinner/Fundraiser – October 2, 2009 and Camp Snooze in October.

As there was no further business, the Library Board adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Leslie Vuilleumier
Executive Assistant