

Ridgefield Library Board
December 17, 2007

Present: Peter Authier; Peter Coffin, Chair; Melissa Buckwalter; Barbara Dobbin; Lori Dowling; Tom Hoban; Abigail Cahill Kagan; Mark Meachem; Brian Oren; Cloris Pearson; Beverley Rogers; Eileen Walker

Excused: Liz, Montanari; Bob Payne; Bruce Ruehl

Others present: Christina Nolan (ex-officio), Library Director; Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Library Director; Carroll Brewster, Emeritus Board Member; Rebecca Bryan, Consultant; Kerri Glass, on loan from Goldstone Foundation; Steve Goldstone, Campaign Chair; Jeromy Powers, HSNP; Richard Munday, HSNP

The meeting of the Ridgefield Library Board was called to order at 7:30 pm in the Ridgefield Library by Board Chair Peter Coffin.

It was moved and seconded to approve the Library Board minutes of November 26, 2007 as presented. Motion carried.

Chairman's Announcements

Board Chair Peter Coffin noted that in any major complicated project there are significant issues to resolve: we seem to have all of them in this particular project (charged political environment; a building that people love; green concerns; serious existing problems with the current library building) . Peter indicated his appreciation of the phenomenal work the Board has been doing with regard to the building project.

Consent Agenda

The Library Director's Report, the report of the Planning Committee and the report of the Technology Advisory Board were all accepted as the Consent Agenda.

Friends of the Ridgefield Library

No report at this time.

Campaign Chair Report

Capital Campaign Chair Steve Goldstone addressed the Board. The elevations were not displayed at the Board to Board dinner. We are still making progress on these plans. Considerable progress has been made on adhering to a fixed budget. A plan for a financial strategy of 4/4/4/ was discussed. It will be important to increase the size of our endowment. A discussion followed about saving the façade of the Webster Bank building and the role of the Village District Commission. To be successful with this project we must 1) do our homework 2) demonstrate financial prudence and 3) be respectful of our town.

The Board adjourned to meet as a Committee of the Whole at 9 pm. Emeritus Board Member Carroll Brewster facilitated the discussion so that all current Board members can participate.

At 10:10 pm the Board resumed its regular meeting.

It was moved and seconded to develop the façade of the bank building as part of our plans. Motion carried. There were 6 in favor of this motion, 4 abstained.

APPROVED

Plans were made to bring our plans to the First Selectman and the Village District Commission.

Budget 2008-2009

The Finance Committee has scrutinized the proposed budget for the upcoming FY2008-2009 and recommended that the Board approve the operating budget as presented. Motion carried. This was moved by Lori Dowling, seconded by Mark Meachem. Motion carried.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 pm.

Recorded and respectfully submitted,
Christina B. Nolan, Library Director