

Ridgefield Library Board
May 19, 2008

Present: Peter Coffin; Barbara Dobbin; Abigail Cahill Kagan; Mark Meachem; Liz Montanari; Brian Oren; Cloris Pearson; Beverley Rogers; Eileen Walker

Excused: Peter Authier; Melissa Buckwalter; Lori Dowling; Tom Hoban; Bob Payne; Bruce Ruehl

Others present: Director Christina Nolan (ex-officio); Library Director, Carroll Brester, emeritus; Bob Leavitt, Friends of Ridgefield Library, President; Steve Goldstone; Kerri Glass, Goldstone Foundation; Rebecca Bryan, R. Bryan Associates

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

Minutes of the Meeting of April 28, 2008 were approved as corrected. Corrections should reflect that both Lori Dowling and Kerri Glass were present at the meeting. Motion carried.

Chairman's Announcements

Chair Coffin reminded the group of the Board Retreat to be held on Monday, June 23 from 4 – 9 pm. There will be no July Board meeting. Our Strategic Planning efforts are on hold at this time. We will be using the June 5 date for a Donor Summit instead of a solicitation training. All Board members are welcome. This June 5th meeting will be at Founder's Hall.

Library Director's Report

No report was submitted.

Friends of the Library

Friends President Bob Leavitt reported a gross number of \$21,000 from the recent large book sale.

Finance Committee

There was no Finance Committee report.

It should be noted that the Town Budget and the School Budgets failed at the town vote on May 13. The next planned town vote is scheduled for June 3. An additional \$32,000 has been trimmed from the money we receive from the Town. Once the budget passes, the Library Director will present recommendations to balance the budget to the Finance Committee for their consideration and approval. **This operating budget will also need to be passed by the full.**

Nominating

We have one opening to bring our Board to a full 16. We have no one leaving the Board this year.

Operations Committee

Liz Montanari reported that the Operations Committee has begun their work. They have met with Mary Rindfleisch to review current staffing. They are reviewing sources of revenue.

Town Budget Vote

Chair Coffin said that while the Library project was not actually on the referendums presented, we seem to be lumped with the defeat of the budget. We are fortunate not to have been on that particular Ballot. **This is a time of assessing what the implications for this vote are for our project.**

A general discussion followed noting that the immediate urgency of the work of the Operation Committee has been lifted. With the failure of the Police Building project, it is unlikely that our project will be going forward for some time.

This gives us an opportunity to explore all of our options, focus on our relationships and re-fresh the assumptions (feasibility study, needs assessment, customer survey).

The need in our current physical facility is still there. It hasn't gone away.

It was recommended that Peter Coffin make every effort to keep Rudy informed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

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