

Ridgefield Library Board Minutes – Monday, November 26, 2007

Members present: Peter Authier, Peter Coffin, Barbara Dobbin, Lori Dowling, Tom Hoban, Abigail Kagan, Mark Meachem, Liz Montanari, Brian Oren, Bob Payne, Cloris Pearson, Bruce Ruehl, Eileen Walker

Excused: Melissa Buckwalter, Beverley Rogers

Others present: Chris Nolan, Library Director; Mary Rindfleisch, Assistant Library Director; Kerri Glass, the Goldstone Foundation; Bob Leavitt, President of the Friends of the Library; Emily Whittemore, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order

Chair Coffin called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm in the Dayton Program Room.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved as distributed.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Coffin reported that the building project is progressing. Cammie Randolph has joined the Campaign Steering Committee.

Director Nolan has requested that the Board members be photographed for the new web site. The Board unanimously agreed to this.

Chair Coffin reported on the meeting with Town officials today. He said there was positive feedback but that the First Selectman strongly recommended that the new construction reference the old Webster Bank building. Chair Coffin feels that this can be developed through the architect's interpretation.

Consent Agenda

It was moved and seconded to approve all items on the Consent Agenda. Motion passed unanimously.

Building Committee

Committee Chair Dobbin reported that at this point the building and the budget match. The plan layout is not the final design, however. The December 3 meeting of the Building Committee will be the next opportunity to see what the building will look like. She invited all Board members to attend this meeting.

It was reported that at the meeting with the Town officials today, it was suggested that the Board of Selectmen meet at the Library on December 19 or 20 to see and discuss the building project in its final design phase.

A lengthy discussion followed pertaining to the strategy of the upcoming December meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

It was announced that Molly McGeehin will chair the Green Advisory Board. Chair Coffin and Director Nolan are recruiting members for this board.

Campaign Planning

Chair Coffin opened a discussion on the request amount from the Town toward the building project. It was suggested that 1/3 of the total building project budget be requested to match the 1/3 from major donors. The major donors will contribute provided the Town matches their collective gift. The final 1/3 would then still need to be raised.

After a discussion, it was moved and seconded to request the 1/3 from the Town as a match to major donor gifts. Motion carried.

Committee member Kagan reported that the Committee had been meeting to develop a program to get community members involved in various projects at the Library. She urged Board members to pass on any names of “people magnets” to add to their growing list of participants. The kickoff event for this group is January 24.

Finance Committee

Committee Chair Authier reported an “on budget” status at present. The investments are returning at 7.3%. The Finance Committee had benefit of a presentation by former Library Board member Al Shagory in which he advocated diversifying a small amount of our investments to include international funds. Action on this is deferred pending an email vote of the whole Finance Committee. Some monies from the equities fund will be invested in international funds. Work will begin soon on the 2008-09 operating budget which must be submitted to the Town in early January.

Development Committee

Chair Montanari passed around a tri-fold brochure on planned giving opportunities that will be mailed to library users over 70 years of age. She thanked Assistant Director Rindfleisch, Liz Marcus and Board member Payne for their hard work. Assistant Director Rindfleisch updated the Annual Appeal figures. To date monies received total \$104,505.73. The green and black book bags are being sold at the Circulation desk for \$10.00. Member Montanari said she was buying several to give to those donors on her list of solicitees. Assistant Director Rindfleisch also mentioned that on the Friday after Thanksgiving, Books on the Common had donated 15% of any purchase made in their store by customers who displayed their Ridgefield Library card. A public thank you will appear in the *Ridgefield Press* with a photo of the check presentation.

Kresge Green Grant Application

Assistant Director Rindfleisch reported that this is a planning grant which covers expenses associated with exploring ways to be green. This grant should be done in the next few days and will be available to Board members who wish to read it, as it provides a good background of where we have been. Motion was made and seconded to approve the application of the Kresge Green Grant. Motion passed unanimously.

Friends of the Library

President Leavitt reported that the book sale in early November netted approximately \$18,000. He also thanked Board members Kagan and Pearson for helping with a human resources issue and he also cited Joan Laspia and Jo Fainer for their tireless

efforts. He noted that the Friends have pledged an additional \$50,000 to the Capital Campaign.

Executive Session

It was moved and seconded to go into executive session. Motion passed unanimously. After the executive session, the meeting was again opened.

Old Business

None presented.

New Business

None presented.

Adjournment

Chair Coffin adjourned the meeting at approximately 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Emily Whittemore
Administrative Assistant