

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
January 24, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Brian Egge; Rob Ellis, Vice Chair; Sandra Gill; Alison Greeley, Chair; Art Leaderman; Bill Magill; Tom Main; Tizzie Mantione, Treasurer; Danielle McGrogan; Jeet Sandhu; David Smith; Marc Vigliotti; Carrie Wells, Secretary

Others present: Brenda McKinley, Library Director; Andy Forsyth, Assistant Director; Lauren Bubniak, Development Director; Tom Madden, President of the Friends of the Ridgefield Library; Laura Zolotorofe, Executive Assistant

Absent: Marge Davidson; Paul Mellinger

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by Chair Alison Greeley.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December 13, 2021, Library Board meeting were approved as submitted with one minor correction.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Alison Greeley thanked and congratulated Brenda McKinley for 5 years of service at the Library.

Director's Report

Library Director Brenda McKinley's report was sent in the Board Packet. There are no changes with regards to Covid 19 protocol.

Friends Update

Friends President Tom Madden reported that Julie Yaun has rejoined their board. The Friends have had 4 successful pop-up book sales. He thanked Cris Nichols and Betty Ito for organizing them. Their next sale will be on 2/5. The Friends voted in their January meeting to fund the replacement of the Library's 3 digital display monitors and the purchase of three benches for additional outdoor seating.

Financial & Operational Sustainability

Development Committee – Development Director Lauren Bubniak reported that Development fundraising is slightly down from last year. The Annual Appeal that was mailed in the fall has done very well. The first e-newsletter for the estate and legacy campaign was sent out on 1/11. The Library has partnered with Freewill.com and the response has been very positive. A question about this organization was posed by Tizzie Mantione and a discussion followed. The Hot Stove event scheduled for 2/5 is sold out. The Library will again be participating in Fairfield County Community Foundation Giving Day on 2/24. Vice President Rob Ellis noted that the Development Committee is looking for volunteers to assist with the Gala. Connie Marsala, the Development Associate, will be leaving her position on 2/5.

Financial: Finance Committee – Treasurer Tizzie Mantione informed the Board that the FY 2022 – 2023 budget meeting with the Board of Selectman is scheduled on 2/1 at 7 pm in Town Hall. A draft of the presentation was presented to Library Board members during this meeting. Discussion followed.

Technology- Brian Eggen will give a technology update to the Board in February.

Communications – Sandra Gill shared an example of patron gratitude. Rhonda Hill, a FORL Board member, is very happy with a new feature that automatically renews library materials. Sandra highlighted the successful Tech Recycling Day that took place on 1/15. The feedback from the community was very positive and almost \$5,000 was raised to support technology and Steam programs. Some upcoming events include: 2/5 Take Your Child to the Library Day, with special guests Elephant and Piggy; Hot Stove with Gary Cohen on 2/5; State of the Town Address with Rudy Marconi on 2/8; 2/24 a book signing and author talk with State Senator, Will Haskell. The Sponsor of the Month is the Ridgefield Playhouse for allowing the Library to use their space for the Hot Stove event. The Volunteer of the Month is Arthur, a RHS student, who helped at the Tech Recycling

Cultivate Motivated Staff

The Library will begin the search for a new Development Associate. The second round of interviews for the Children's Programming position have been scheduled. Staff Training Day will take place on March 11th. The Library will be closed that day. The keynote speaker will be former American Library Association President and Library Consultant Maureen Sullivan.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 28th. The meeting adjourned at 9:31 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zolotorofe
Executive Assistant