

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
May 23, 2022

Hybrid Meeting

Present: Brian Egge; Rob Ellis, Vice Chair; Sandra Gill; Alison Greeley, Chair; Art Leaderman; Tom Main; Tizzie Mantione, Treasurer; Danielle McGrogan; Paul Mellinger; 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.

Absent: Marge Davidson; Bill Magill; Jeet Sandhu

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm by Chair Alison Greeley.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 25, 2022, Library Board meeting were approved as submitted.

Chair's Announcements

Chair Alison Greeley reported that the Executive Committee reviewed all submissions from the Board Survey and will be taking some things under advisement.

Governance Committee

Chair Alison Greeley requested that the Board go into Executive Session to discuss Board candidates for 2022-2023. Motion made, seconded, and approved to allow Library staff and FORL President Tom Madden to stay for Executive Session. Motion made, seconded, and approved to go into Executive Session at 7:45pm. Motion made, seconded, and approved to return from Executive Session at 8pm. Alison Greeley called for a motion to approve the new slate of Board candidates, as discussed in Executive Session. Motion was seconded and approved. Alison Greeley called for a motion to approve the renewals of Marge Davison, David Smith, Danielle McGrogan, Jeet Sandhu, and Marc Vigliotti for a second three-year term. Motion was seconded and approved. Alison thanked all Board members for their dedication to the Library.

Staff Spotlight

Library Director Brenda McKinley introduced Rita Covelli, Head of Adult Services. Rita oversees Adult Programming, the Technology Center/STEAM Corner, Adult Services librarians and the Teen Center. Prior to joining the Ridgefield Library, Rita was the Assistant Director of the Mahopac Library. Rita shared her background and highlighted some projects she is involved with. Those include collection development, revamping the book club choices and expanding the world language section. She was drawn to the Ridgefield Library because of its commitment to outreach programs.

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. The Library has been participating in a number of town wide events including staffing a table in Ballard Park at the May 8th Run Like a Mother 5K event and at the Spring Stroll on May 14th. Library staff will be marching in the Ridgefield Memorial Day parade on May 30th and staff will be attending the Pride in the Park event at Ballard Park on June 4th. Several staff members attended the annual Connecticut Library Association Conference.

Friends Update

Friends President Tom Madden reported that the Friends had their Children's and General book sale in May. The amount collected was less than their September sale, but they have been running monthly Secret Stack sales on the second Saturday of the month.

Community Engagement

Technology- Brian Egge thanked the Friends and Anthony Cacciola for the four new digital displays that were installed. The Technology Committee updated the Patron Privacy and Confidentiality Policy, this was then reviewed by the Executive Committee. It is now presented to the full Board. Please see Brian if you have any questions, comments, or feedback. It will be voted on at the next Board meeting in June. A Nintendo Switch Lite has been purchased for circulation.

Communications – The Committee report was submitted to OneDrive. David Smith reviewed the talking points. A patron on 4/27 complimented the Library on the donation wall and art in the lower level gallery. Program highlights include: *Let The People Decide*, a film on voting rights; *Speaking Fearlessly* program for teens with Ira Joe Fisher sponsored by the Couri Educational Fund; Make Music Day on 6/21. The Sponsor of the Month is the Ridgefield Running Company for their support of the Library's *Noreen L. Papa: Mothers Live Your Life* fund for health and wellness programming and resources. The Volunteers of the Month are the Library's senior interns, Tiffany Chen and Kayla Johansen.

Financial & Operational Sustainability

Development Committee – Development Director Laureen Bubniak reported that development is ahead of last year. Laureen has continued to work to onboard the new Development Assistant, Kaki Taylor. The Gala is ahead in sponsorships, advertisements and donations, but behind in ticket sales.

Financial: Finance Committee – Treasurer Tizzie Mantione updated the Board. The Finance Committee is looking for new investment advisors and will be meeting with 3 potential candidates. There is a meeting scheduled for an investment portfolio review with Bar Harbor. Any questions, please see Tizzie or another member of the committee. The FY 2022/2023 Town Budget passed, including all capital items. Healthcare costs have come in higher than projected, the Town is exploring options so at this point the actual increase is unknown. The Library's investments are down due to a volatile market.

Cultivate Motivated Staff

Brenda McKinley reported that the Kathleen Tracey, the new Children's Services Program Coordinator began on 5/16. Children's Librarian Anh Tran Ng has left her position. The Library is actively looking to fill that position. The search for a new Director of Development will begin soon.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 27th. Motion made, seconded, and approved to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zolotorofe
Executive Assistant