

Ridgefield Library Board Meeting
May 19, 2025

Present: Nicole Agius; Krystyl Brown; Jennifer Crowl; Marge Davidson, Secretary; Brian Egge; Paul Hastings; Lin Jamison; Tom Main; Jeet Sandhu; Dave Smith, Vice Chair; Katie Spreng; Anne Marie Squeo; Marc Vigliotti; Kim Welton

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

Absent: Danielle McGrogan; Gary Rapp, Chair

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by Vice-Chair, David Smith.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes of the April 28, 2025 Library Board meeting as submitted.

Executive Session

Motion was made, seconded and approved to enter Executive Session at 7:04 pm to discuss Board candidates, Board Member renewals and the proposed FY 26 Slate Executive Committee. Library Staff were invited to stay. Motion to exit Executive Session was made, seconded and approved at 7:07 pm.

Chair's Announcements

David Smith presented the new Board Members slate for FY 25/26, as recommended by Governance Chair, Marge Davidson. **Motion was made, seconded and approved to have Cathy Brown, John Greenleaf, Joe Loonan, Michael Scheer and Meg Soffen join the Library Board for terms starting July 1, 2025.**

Director's Report

Library Director Brenda McKinley's report was sent in the Board Packet. Brenda thanked the Governance Committee for their work. An invitation to the Maurice Sendak Foundation 2025 Fellows Panel was sent to all Board members. Brenda updated the Board on the Sendak Sculpture project. Discussion followed. Any additional questions should be directed to Brenda. The Board will need to approve the acceptance of this gift per Gift Acceptance Policy.

Friends of the Ridgefield Library

Tom Madden briefed the Board on the May Secret Stacks sale. The Friends Annual meeting will be on 6/2. The Friends will vote on their Board. Tom Madden has been elected to the Board of the Friends of Connecticut organization.

Community Engagement

Building Committee – David Smith noted that the Library plans to use what remains of the first installment of the Richardson grant to reupholster furniture. Thank you to the Friends for funding the new chairs in the Friends Reading Room. Brenda McKinley will apply for additional money for furniture through a State grant. The Capital requests have been approved.

Technology Committee – Brian Egge updated the Board on the AMHS project. The Committee will be looking at a plan to refresh the Library's website.

Financial & Operational Sustainability

Development Committee – Jane Lindenburg does not expect the Gala to sell out this year. Development is working on

finalizing details and the auction item list. On 6/3 there is a donor social. 6/26 will be Guest Bartender night at the Lantern.

Financial: Finance Committee – Paul Hastings provided the report. Operating income is tracking well. The Town budget passed. Building expenses are high, primarily due to the cost of electricity. A semi-annual review is planned on 6/2 with UBS and 6/4 with Bar Harbor.

Cultivate Motivated Staff

Brenda McKinley announced that Michelle Schaffer has been hired as the Adult Programming Assistant. Christie Barnett will be the new Children's Librarian beginning in July. Phyllis Campbell will be retiring as a Circulation Assistant.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for June 23, 2025. **Motion made, seconded and approved to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Zolotorofe
Executive Assistant