



The Beacon Falls Public Library

Library Board of Directors

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May 9, 2007

- I. Call to Order: Chairman Mary MacEachern called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm in the Connie Christensen Children's Room.

Members Present: Mary MacEachern, Julie Fitzpatrick, Susan Levine, Lurana Siemenski
Members Absent: Peter Christensen, Maryann Smith

Staff Present: Marsha Durley, Head Librarian

Friends of the Library: Sue Dowdell

- II. Review of Agenda: The agenda was reviewed. Motion to approve agenda as submitted: Levine/Fitzpatrick, all approved.

- III. Minutes/Correspondence: The March minutes were reviewed. It was noted that in section VIII, in the second paragraph, 'port' should be replaced with 'report.' Motion to accept minutes as minutes as amended: Fitzpatrick/Siemenski, all approved.

There was no correspondence.

- IV. Public Comment: Sue Dowdell stepped forward to discuss the idea of holding a business expo as part of the 50th anniversary celebrations. She talked to the Economic Development Commission and also to business librarians throughout the state. Sue determined that it would be more appropriate to instead begin a business outreach program and she requested support from the Board as well as the participation of one Board member. Sue Levine volunteered to work with Sue Dowdell. It was noted that as a Friends' initiative, the program will need support both in the Board and in the Friends. The purpose would be to create relationships with businesses to foster support in the community for the library. After researching, Sue found that relationships take up to two years to develop. The Board noted that this was a good idea. Motion to approve Business Outreach Program instead of a Business Expo: Levine/Fitzpatrick, all approved.

- V. Friends' Report: Julie reported on the following:

- The anniversary celebrations went off wonderfully, with good attendance.
- The Book Sale will be held on June 9, probably in the garage.
- The contract for the ballet will be signed, to be held October 28 with two performances
- Grants came in from Naugatuck Valley Savings and Loan as well as from Len Greene to help pay for the ballet.
- The paperwork for Joe Crisco's grant is being filled out and sent in.

- The Friends and Marsha are continuing work on the June newsletter, to come out in the first week of June.

VI. Building Committee: The Building Committee would like to hold a joint meeting of the Board of Directors and the Building Committee. The Board chose May 22nd and May 31st as possible dates of the joint meeting. They will let the Building Committee choose which is best for them.

VII. United Valley Library Report: Marsha was unable to attend the last meeting.

VIII. Five Year Plan: It was noted that we have heard nothing yet on the grant, but that the decision should be made soon, though money would not be distributed until August.

IX. Librarian's Report:

Marsha reported that the annual grant from the State library arrived this month in the amount of \$1405.88 and it was subsequently turned over to the town. The library was also notified that a check in the amount of \$86.89 will be coming soon as ConnectiCard reimbursement.

For the month of March, Marsha noted that circulation was about the same as the previous year. Program attendance was down about 25% compared to the previous year. Marsha requested a transfer of money from the Clerk line item and from the Telephone line item to be sent to the computer line item. Money from the Library Materials line item was transferred to the Programming line item. Marsha also noted that a bill has not yet arrived from the Citizen's News for the January meeting.

For the month of April, circulation was up about 26.5% from the previous year, including video circulation. ILL-borrowed is also up 54%, as a result of a lack of space to shelve books that patrons want. ConnectiCard loans were down, but programming did well with a total of 262 people. Computer usage almost tripled over the previous year. Marsha noted that under bills paid, Becky Laughlin was paid for her gardening program. Also, summer reading bags and goodies were ordered as upstart for the Summer Reading Program.

Sue Dowdell asked what the plan is for the money in the checking account. Some has been donated for books, some left from the Hurley's, and some is earmarked for projects and books. It was noted that enough money should be kept available to match the grant in case it is removed from the town budget. The Board discussed the possibility of placing money into a CD or into the Building Fund. Motion to authorize treasurer to make arrangements for the transfer of \$2500 into the Building Fund: Fitzpatrick/Levine, all approved.

X. Old Business:

- a. Registrar's Space: It was noted that no action will be taken until the Town Budget is approved.
- b. Review of By-laws: It was noted that in the by-laws, rules of attendance should be remembered. Motion to change month of the head librarian's evaluations from May to June: Sieminski/Levine, all approved.
- c. Review of Building Committee Recommendations: No discussion.

XI. New Business: No new business.

XII. Announcements/Adjournment:

Marsha announced that a letter from the Attorney General was received. He won a class action suit against the Music Makers and offered a minimum of \$500 to the library, to be used for CD's and audio-books.

Marsha also announced that the summer program is coming along well, with opening and closing programs both booked. A trip to the Bronx Zoo is planned for August 15, 2007 and may include Prospect Library as well.

A program called Connecticut Invents, offered by the Museum of Connecticut History will take place on Thursday, July 19th, at 11am and is open to 4th and 5th graders. Susan Cable expressed her willingness to bus children from the Rec program, to the library, on that date.

The next meeting will be held on June 13, 2007. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36pm: Levine/Fitzpatrick, all approved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jessica Christensen
Board Clerk