

Southington Public Library and Museum
255 Main Street
Library Board Meeting
Amended Minutes
March 3, 2003

Meeting called to order by Chairman David DellaVecchia at 7:05PM.

Members in attendance: David DellaVecchia, Carol Ladd, Theresa O'Connor, Christopher Palmieri, Heidi Bittner, Sandra Micalizzi, Valerie DePaolo.

Absent: Robert Cusano, Edward Pocock.

Guest: Doris LaRese

Public communications: Christopher Palmieri told of a concern from a library patron who tried to check out a book at another town's library unsuccessfully, being told by the librarian that his Southington card was not honored there. Director Johnston clarified the matter, unequivocally, that state statute provides for all state residents with library cards to have reciprocal borrowing privileges with all principle libraries in the state.

Other communications: David DellaVecchia received a letter from the Southington Arts Council about schools displaying artwork at the library. In recent years, the displays were located in the gallery but the Art Council would like different placement. Director Johnston suggested that some of the art could be hung on one wall in the main area of the library, where the "Best Picks" are now located, with a message to patrons that a show is located in the "Hall Gallery".

Secretary Minutes

Christopher Palmieri suggested amending the minutes for the February 3 meeting to include discussion about the clock for the children's area ending with the board deciding not to proceed with the project. Palmieri suggested including information about the acquisition of textbooks from the high school and middle schools for use by students in the homework center.

Motion: Christopher Palmieri made a motion to accept the February minutes as amended, Valerie DePaolo seconded. Approved.

Treasurer's Report

A discussion of the budget revealed lower library material and maintenance balances. Director Johnston explained gift accounts and undesignated funds accounts. The board questioned certificate of deposit accounts, which Johnston reviewed and pointed out, were summarized in an annual report issued to the board in July 2002. The report will be updated. Johnston suggested having the town's finance department manage the CDs and checking account in hopes of gaining better returns and time management of the accounts. The library finance committee will meet when Bob Cusano is feeling better. A question was raised about who is responsible for demolition of the house owned by the library. Johnston said that the town is responsible. The town council will have to take an action for the library building program to proceed.

Motion: Christopher Palmieri made a motion to accept the checking account balance statement, contingent upon referral to the finance committee to review the active accounts. Valerie DePaolo

seconded. Approved.

Committee Report: The fountain for the Barnes Museum is still to be installed. It was decided to ship it to Evergreen Nursery. Fountain maintenance and lighting were discussed. Sod in front must be checked. Plans were made to get Taste of Southington organizing underway by forming a committee. Token sales should be discussed at a meeting, in early April, as well as having music at this year's event.

Director's Report: Jay Johnston presented the library's webpage additions to the board. Video interviews of library patrons, stating positive aspects of the library, were viewed as well as a message from the director. The library is now going to be responsible for coordinating all of the town's activities, excluding official town meetings, on the town's website. On the library's website, there is a new page, "Kids' Connection" with a children's newsletter with recommended search engines to help parents and kids at home with book listings. Johnston is getting school administrators together to form an adolescent group, where teens can hold open discussions at the library. Johnston is also working on a cultural events program to energize the library, hoping to get such groups as the Yale Repertory Theater, theatrical producers and experts to speak about art. He wants to begin a travelogue and feature places to which people have traveled. It will take effort to get the public to come to the events. Johnston is meeting with all town school principals Thursday, March 13 about obtaining textbooks for the homework center and while he is there he will speak to them about an after-school dialogue with teens and in interesting school personnel to attend the dialogues. A survey was done through the reference desk, of magazines being offered at the library. As a result, ten or fifteen magazines will be discontinued from the library's collection. There was a good article in the newspaper about the library's historical data conversion. Only a few items were cut from the manager's budget, which cannot be restored. The next step is to go to the board of finance. The phone system was left in the budget but \$20,000.00 was cut from the part time assistants account. Sunday hours were cut as well.

Barnes Museum Report: The budget didn't change.

Building and Maintenance: The library roof has been fine except that Johnston had to go up and shovel it off. Johnston is having Jerry Dlugos do repairs on the Barnes roof. No estimate has been obtained.

Finance: Will report when Robert Cusano is better.

Friends: Doris LaRese shared the Friends' idea about obtaining summer reading list books for lending which would be then sold in the bookstore when the summer was over. The Friends want to put aside money for the addition to the library. LaRese reviewed scholarship monies they provide as well as money they give for the bus for third graders visiting the library and their donation given to library staff for attending CLA events. LaRese stated the Friends' reasons for deciding to give the library the gift of the clock for the Children's Department. Palmieri said that he thought money given by Friends should go into books or something big for the Young Adult section, whereas the other departments have large items. Johnston pointed out that until there is a new addition to the library, there is no room to add large items to the YA section. Carol Ladd suggested that the library find out what kids would like when the teen discussions take place. David DellaVecchia said that the board thought they were burdening the friends with the clock purchase when they decided against it. He pointed out that the Friends are offering the clock as a gift.

Personnel & Policies: The grievance that was filed is in progress.

There was no old business or new business.

Christopher Palmieri made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Theresa O'Connor seconded. Approved.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Harriet Bitar