

Southington Public Library and Museum

255 Main Street
Library Board Meeting
September 13, 2004

Meeting called to order by Vice Chairman Sandra Micalizzi at 5:10PM.

Members in attendance: Heidi Bittner, Sandra Micalizzi, Theresa O'Connor, Susan Reisman, David DellaVecchia, Robert Cusano, Valerie DePaolo and Jeanne Corrigan.

Guests: Marie Secondo, Barnes Museum curator.

Secretary Minutes

Public Communications: Theresa O'Connor sent a note of appreciation to the board for a fruit arrangement they sent to her during recovery from surgery.

Library Board Communications: Bob Cusano shared newspaper articles with the board. One covered the Bradley Henry Barnes and Leila Upson Barnes memorial trust. The other referred to a Meriden City Council decision to pull money from a trust fund to fill a gap in the budget.

Secretary Minutes: Bob Cusano made a motion to accept the June minutes, David DellaVecchia seconded. All voted in favor. Approved. Susan Reisman made a motion to accept the July minutes, Valerie DePaolo seconded. All voted in favor. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The board reviewed and discussed the June treasurer's report. Bob Cusano made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Theresa O'Connor seconded. All voted in favor. Approved.

Friends: Doris LaRese submitted the Friends of the Library's Annual Report. The Friends held a retreat at the Orchards of Southington. Pictures of the event may be viewed on the Library's website. The group voted to purchase various items for the library. The store is doing well, receiving coverage of numerous feature articles in local newspapers.

Director's Report: There are many programs taking place at the library. Scot Haney of Eyewitness News, WFSB Channel 3 featured the Barnes Museum in a television segment, Every Town Has a Story. Director Johnston appeared on local television in a discussion with Representative Chris Murphy, regarding library programming. The summer children's programming was phenomenal, with attendance numbers higher than in past years. Overall performances throughout the library are up as well. The library is continuing to grow but the book inventory must be constantly weeded to make way for new acquisitions, as there isn't enough room to retain retrospective collections. The public is not able to find the depth of the collection they need at this time.

Taste of Southington: The Taste of Southington went well, with a very good turnout and thorough news coverage on the event. The board discussed making the upper terrace on the grounds of the Barnes Museum more accessible and to provide more chairs for guests. Valerie DePaolo thanked everyone for their help and looks forward to the event next year.

Barnes Museum: Curator Marie Secondo submitted the annual report for the Barnes Museum. There were 578 visitors to the museum with 74 tours last year, not counting the December open house. People came from 42 Connecticut communities, 9 states and 2 countries. Secondo showed the board an article published in *Automobile Quarterly* entitled *A Man Named Barnes*, by Dennis David, which featured Bradley Barnes and his automobiles. Digitization of Barnes Museum contents is ongoing. The board discussed a Barnes committee meeting sometime in the future.

Building & Maintenance: Phase two of the irrigation system at the Barnes is complete. The library will install a workroom in the lower level for the digitization project. Mark Henne will begin working on the historical project once a week with help from reference librarians and an intern. Complaints about poor lighting on the main level of the library will be addressed. A water spigot has been installed at the rear of the library, enabling better watering. The Children's Department desk is in place. The HVAC system is running well. The fuel budget for the coming winter should be enough at the library but the Barnes budget may not be adequate. The fountain at the Barnes is running well but the library needs a urinal and dividers in the men's room.

Long Range Plans: The library needs more space and a larger parking area. It is time to re-write a five-year plan, as the last one was written in 2000. In October a volunteers appreciation event will take place.

Personnel & Policies: There were none.

Old Business: Bob Cusano reviewed the newspaper article about Meriden's using trust funds for their own budget. The board discussed the library's checkbook funds.

New Business: There was none.

Susan Reisman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Valerie DePaolo seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35PM

Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Bitar.