



BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY

189 Greenwood Avenue, Bethel, CT 06801

203-794-8756 Fax 203-794-8761

www.bethellibrary.org

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

BETHEL PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 21, 2012—7:00 p.m.

Clifford J. Hurgin Municipal Center, Meeting Room B, Bethel CT

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TOWN OF BETHEL
TOWN CLERK

PRESENT: Trisha Lewis, Chairman; Linda Curtis [entered 7:08 p.m.], Robin Kahn, Carol Lawlor, Tia Murphy, Mary O'Leary, Gary Passineau, Terri Rotella, Mary Spain, Elisa Volpati, Directors.

Lynn Rosato, Library Director.

ABSENT WITH NOTICE: Jane Bickford, Richard Merritt, Directors.

Chairman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and led all in the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC INPUT: None.

CORRESPONDENCE & ANNOUNCEMENTS: Chairman Lewis received a letter from Cynthia McCorkindale clarifying that she is not a member of the Bethel Action Committee. The letter will be filed with the meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES: Mary O'Leary moved to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2012, meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Tia Murphy. Voting "yes": Robin Kahn, Carol Lawlor, Tia Murphy, Mary O'Leary, Terri Rotella, Mary Spain, Elisa Volpati. Abstain: Gary Passineau.

Gary Passineau moved to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2012, special meeting as submitted. Motion seconded by Terri Rotella. Voting "yes": Carol Lawlor, Tia Murphy, Mary O'Leary, Gary Passineau, Terri Rotella, Mary Spain. Abstain: Robin Kahn, Elisa Volpati.

TREASURER'S REPORT: In the absence of Treasurer Bickford, Library Director Rosato prepared and distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Robin Kahn moved to accept the Treasurer's report as submitted. Motion seconded by Mary Spain. Motion passed unanimously.

[Linda Curtis entered the meeting.]

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Library Director Rosato distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Connecticut reimbursement will be \$2,432. Discussion of preliminary plans

for Founder's Day celebrations to be held Friday, September 21. Robin Kahn moved to authorize expenditures from the Board account for \$300 to \$400 in support of Founder's Day programs and activities. Motion seconded by Terri Rotella. Motion passed unanimously.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY: Linda Curtis reported that the Friends will not meet this month. The revised proposal for the Meserve Foundation grant is due soon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget FY 12-13: Mary O'Leary and Robin Kahn expressed the appreciation felt by the entire Board that the budget approved at referendum included \$3,000 restored to the Library's Books and Materials line item (line item 212).

Extensive discussion of how to proceed re: the staff and Library Director requests for changes to personnel salaries and benefits. The Personnel Committee will meet on June 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the Library and will present its recommendations to the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee will meet on June 4 at 7:15 p.m. at the Library and will present its recommendations at the June 25 Board meeting.

Request for Line Item Transfers: Library Director Rosato distributed copies prior to the meeting. Gary Passineau moved to approve the requested year-end transfers. Motion seconded by Carol Lawlor. Motion passed unanimously.

Building and Grounds Use Request: Library Director Rosato received a request from the Bethel Historical Society to use the front lawn around the statue for a celebration of P.T. Barnum's birthday on July 5. Terri Rotella moved to approve the request. Motion seconded by Mary O'Leary. Motion passed unanimously.

Teen Booth Sponsorship: Library Director Rosato reported that Ethan Brown's Tau 2000 fundraiser brought in \$2,931 in net revenue, with more pledges still to be paid. Net total will exceed \$3,000. Chairman Lewis proposed that the two diner-style booths in the Teen area of the renovated Library be designated as sponsored by Ethan Brown, in recognition of both the amount of money raised at the event as well as the time Ethan spent planning and carrying out the fundraiser. Terri Rotella moved to honor Ethan Brown with sponsorship of the Teen Library booths. Motion seconded by Mary Spain. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Development Committee: Tia Murphy reported that the place and date have been secured for the wine tasting fundraiser. She will meet this week with the owner of La Zingara to discuss the details of the September 18 event. Discussion of gift baskets for the raffle, additional sponsors for the event.

Scholarship Committee: Mary Spain reported that the Committee received 22 applications from students at Immaculate and Bethel high schools. After a thorough review process, the

Committee unanimously chose the highest-scoring candidate, a young man at Bethel High School. Mary Spain will attend Scholarship Night at Bethel High School on May 31. The Committee recommended increasing the amount of the Library Board scholarship from \$500 to \$1,000 beginning next year.

[Elisa Volpati left the meeting.]

Building Project Update: Library Director Rosato distributed copies of the report prior to the meeting. Discussion. Final decisions on grant extensions will happen once the architect's plan revisions are completed and approved by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Gary Passineau moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Linda Curtis. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Andrea Forsyth
Recording Secretary

Reports referred to in the minutes are on file at the Bethel Public Library.

cynthia j mccorkindale

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April 23, 2012

Mrs. Trisha Lewis
Chairman of the Board
Bethel Public Library
189 Greenwood Avenue
Bethel, CT 06801

Dear Mrs. Lewis,

I'm writing this to reiterate what I stated during the public input portion of the Library Board meeting this evening.

The content of your letter to me dated April 17, 2011 indicated to me that perhaps I was unclear when I commented at the previous Board meeting during the public input segment about my issue with the "Let Your Voice Be Heard" email sent by the library to its patrons.

At no time did I state or imply that the library was in violation of a Connecticut General Statute. I am very familiar with §9-369b, the statute that prohibits the use of publicly-funded resources to create and distribute advocacy materials to citizens regarding a pending referendum.

What I intended to communicate is that I take issue with any Town Agency sending out notifications that take a stand on any issue that involves taxpayer expenditures, and further, to send those notifications to their own cultivated and maintained databases to the exclusion of remaining taxpayers in the town.

Politics has no place in the day-to-day operations of Town Government and Agencies. Political advocacy is the bailiwick of privately-funded political action committees. I do not want my tax dollars used to promote any political position.

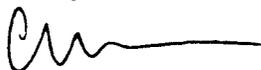
Today in Bethel we have an opportunity to put aside the questionable practices of former leaders who have taken it upon themselves to use public equipment and mailing lists to forward their own political point of view.

It's very clear to me that what the Library did was not illegal. It was, in my opinion, inappropriate. As I said this evening: Why not then send out an email notifying Library patrons of a demonstration taking place against the demolition of the Old Town Hall? My goal was to encourage the Board to reflect on my observations and appreciate that there might be another point of view.

On another topic, I would also like to say that I am not a member of any political organization, and attended the Board Meeting last week and this evening as an individual, not as part of a group. I was therefore surprised at the paragraph that was included in your letter reporting on your meeting with Mr. Kevin Opinski. I am in no way affiliated with Mr. Kevin Opinski and, although it was very nice of you to have taken the time to meet with him, it has nothing to do with me.

In closing, please know that I have the utmost respect for every person on your Board and the hard work you all do.

Sincerely,



Cynthia J. McCorkindale