

Bethel Public Library Board of Directors Special Meeting, September 22, 2009

The Special Meeting of the Bethel Public Library Board of Directors was held on September 22, 2009 in Meeting Room A at the CJH Municipal Center.

Present: Daniel Gaita, Director; Tom Addonizio, Director; Dorathea Gulya-Stasny, Director, Elisa Volpati, Director; Shani Burke-Specht, Chairman; Geraldine Mills, Director; Leslie Mason, Director; Richard Merritt, Director; Lynn Rosato, Library Director; and members of the public were in attendance.

Absent: Lorraine Go, Director; Teri Rotello, Director; Linda Curtis, Director; Robert Crnic, Director were absent.

Chairman Burke-Specht called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Public Comment:

John Specht- 26 Nashville Road offered comment regarding age appropriate shelving height for the stacks in the children's area.

Mary Claire Quine offered comments regarding technology and would like to see the project finished.

Unfinished Business:

Consideration of Building Plans and Designs:

G. Mills stated that a motion was made at the last library board meeting to hold a joint meeting with the building committee, architect and construction manager. Chairman Burke-Specht advised that it would be worthwhile to review the plans and discuss any changes.

L. Mason offered comment that without the attendance of the other parties, that the meeting should have been cancelled, was not of any advantage and it was not in best interest to pursue this at the present time.

Chairman Burke-Specht stated that with construction costs at their lowest and if the project were scaled back, that the process could start right away. In order to accomplish this, a definite plan must be developed. She expressed her desire to have the most technologically advanced library possible.

D. Gaita advised that the stacks are in the plans at the appropriate heights for the children's area and would like to encumber the funds to take the project that was planned and move it forward, procure an architect and go to RFP. The charge of the building committee was to complete the project on time and on budget.

G. Mills reminded those present that the grants have not been accepted by the Board of Selectmen.

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Library Director Rosato offered comments on Technology Development. Libraries have commonly been at the forefront of technology and the Bethel Public Library has been one of the first in the state to implement changes. Although the pace has slowed due to the development campaign and centennial, forward movement is expected in the future. There are plans to add an additional 20+ computers with the completion of the building project. People are still reading books as opposed to e-books. Some savings can be achieved with changes to the building plans for the first floor of the Seelye House, Technology Center and load bearing walls and if furnishings are scaled back, some additional savings can be achieved.

T. Addonizio commented that he would like to move to the next step to accept the grants, hire an architect, determine costs, go to bid and move forward to the construction phase.

G. Mill moved to accept the changes discussed by Library Director Rosato for the bathroom on the first floor of the Seelye House, the Technology Center and the load bearing walls, seconded by R. Merritt. Discussion followed. Library Director Rosato has discussed the proposed changes with the State Library Board, but plans would have to be submitted for approval. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

D. Gaita moved to encumber an amount not to exceed \$35,000 to obtain construction cost estimate documents from the Building Committee, seconded by G. Mills. The motion was clarified to include among other things, outline specifications in CSI format, architectural drawings, engineered drawings and cost estimates for HPTAG work in order to obtain a final price. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

G. Mills moved to send to the Building Committee, the charge of addressing the hiring of an architect to develop cost estimates and all other things necessary for the completion of the Bethel Public Library, seconded by R. Merritt. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Parking was discussed.

Consideration of Development Activities:

The Fall Festival Sidewalk Sale was discussed. G. Mills thanked those on the Development Committee for doing an honorable job.

Consideration of Centennial Gala:

L. Mason offered comments regarding the ticket price for the gala. T. Addonizio explained that the Centennial Gala is a one-time event and should be treated as a celebration to recognize the 100th birthday of the library.

New Business:

Consideration of Grounds Use Requests:

Several requests were received for use of the grounds for the weekend of the Fall Festival Sidewalk Sales as follows:

1. A cub scout troop requested space on 9/26 and 9/27 for a popcorn sale,
2. Judith Ryan Finney requested space on both days to hold a bake sale to benefit the capital campaign,

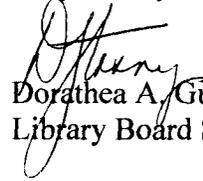
3. The Bethel Police Department requested space on 9/26 for a table to promote crime prevention,

4. Angelica Licari request space on both days to hold a tag sale to benefit an undetermined, local charity.

G. Mills moved to grant the requests, seconded by R. Merritt. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

G. Mills moved to adjourn at 8:45 PM, seconded by L. Mason. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted by,



Dorathea A. Gulya-Stasny
Library Board Secretary