

## Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

**Date:** October 25, 2016

**Attendance:** Judd Ayer, Chair; Delia Berlin; J. Drusilla Carter, Director; Denise Flores; Merle Potchinsky; Harrison Judd, Neil Mesick

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

**Citizens and Delegations:** Lian Hazzard and Priscilla Mateo, students from E. O. Smith High School were present to observe a Board Meeting as part of their Civic Engagement project.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** September 2016 meeting minutes were circulated and reviewed. Neil made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Merle seconded. Minutes were unanimously passed as written.

**Director's Report:** Director's report was reviewed. There was discussion about the grant award from the Pageau Trust. Twenty-eight hundred dollars was awarded to the Children's Department for specific items that will facilitate programming logistics. The office space for Children Department staff was reduced to an area of the "cage" but staff is making the most of this arrangement during construction and doing the best they can.

### **Old Business:**

Construction is on track. Director Carter outlined some specifics about the progress upstairs in the Children's Department including the appearance of the space (no floors and no ceiling), the imminent arrival of a small crane to begin removing the old ducts and HVAC system, and the minimal disruption to heating of the building that will take effect in November when the new system is installed. Director Carter is pleased with how minimally the work is impacting the daily experience of the library patrons particularly.

Potential Name Change – There has been no indication from Town Hall about any progress on this issue. The Board discussed the possible need for clarification about their position and re-asserted its recommendation that the Children's Department be named for Mary-Lou DeVivo as she had had a special attachment to children and this Department and changing the name of the library would be exceedingly costly. Drusilla will inform the Board when this issue comes up on the Town agenda.

### **New Business:**

Library Gallery Space - Harrison Judd presented a draft idea for enhancing how gallery art space is utilized in the Library. He emphasized that the purpose of such a change would be to serve the community by engaging and educating. The space could be used to highlight particularly relevant themes in the community including history, youth talent, books, world cultures and languages, business of art, collaboration with other organizations, etc. There was interest in this idea by the Board who talked about logistics and management of such a space to avoid additional responsibility for the library staff, particularly the director. Further discussion ensued about how such art would be curated for a public building. A procedural policy would be required as part of the planning for such a project. Discussion and visioning will continue.

**Other matters as may come before the Board:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Merle Potchinsky, Co-Secretary