

## Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

**Date:** November 24, 2015

**Attendance:** Judd Ayer, Chair; Delia Berlin; J. Drusilla Carter, Director; Olga Ezis; Neil Mesick; Merle Potchinsky

**Call to Order:** Chairman Ayer called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

**Citizens and Delegations:** Denise Flores was present as a guest and potential board member.

**Acceptance of Minutes:** September meeting minutes were circulated. Neil Mesick made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Merle seconded. Minutes were unanimously passed as written. (Because of a lack of a quorum, no board meeting was held in October.)

**Reports:** Director's reports of activities for October 2015 were presented. Some discussion about the new security guard ensued. Library staff is quite happy with the new hire who knows many local individuals including those from the No-Freeze Shelter who frequent the library. Gail Zeiba gave a brief update of Children's Department upcoming activity including the excitement around the Mayor and Anita Eldridge visiting as Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. Neil Mesick moved to accept the report with Olga Ezis seconding the motion. Report was unanimously passed.

**Old Business:** RFP for an architect has been posted with a deadline in mid-December. Joe Gardner will review applications and the Connecticut licensed architect selected will work from the sketches of the consulting architect to create blueprints for the renovations. A second RFP will then be posted for a contractor to work from those blueprints.

The Board is pleased with the overwhelmingly positive vote in favor of the renovation project during the town meeting on November 10<sup>th</sup>. Prompted by mention in the 'Willimantic Chronicle' of possible alternative library space during renovation, there was discussion about what options there may be for the library's temporary space besides the Bellingham meeting room in Town Hall. The Board will contact Town Manager Neal Beats to request information.

The October statement for the King Trust shows a balance of \$392,425.44. Director Carter will determine what percentage will be available for library material purchases in the next year, as this is a fund with highly restrictive terms.

### **New Business:**

- December meeting will be cancelled for the holidays and our next board meeting **will** be January 26, 2016.
- Delia mentioned that Mayor Eldridge let her know that her term is expiring and that she will have the opportunity to renew for a 3-year term.
- Discussion followed about the consideration of term limits (and how to retain board membership). But given how difficult it is to fill board vacancies, there was disagreement about whether this would be an effective strategy to diversify the board. Meanwhile there are still 2 vacancies on the board.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Merle Potchinsky, Co-Secretary