

Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

Date: March 24, 2015

Attendance : Judd Ayer, Chair; Delia Berlin; Drusilla Carter, Director; Olga Kurnyk-Ezis; Merle Potchinsky

Call to order: Chairman Ayer called meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Citizen or Delegations: None

Acceptance of Minutes: February meeting minutes were reviewed and accepted. Motion to approve was made by Olga Kurnyk-Ezis and Delia Berlin seconded this motion.

Old Business : Discussion of old business was tabled until the full board is present.

New Business : The board engaged in a lengthy discussion about the plans to go forward with library renovations. Director Carter met with Town Manager, Neal Beets to discuss the contract with lawyers. Once a contract is signed, a Request For Proposal will be disseminated and bids from contractors reviewed. It was noted that there are specific regulations established by the State Library system which contractors must adhere to. Director Carter will be working with Town Engineer Joe Gardner throughout the renovation process. Discussion followed about the use of the third floor of Town Hall as temporary library space during renovations and the potential timeline for the contract process and renovation work.

Other Matters as May Come Before the Board: Discussion turned to the impact that Governor Malloy's proposed budget cuts would have on the library. Major concerns are that budget cuts would eliminate funding for significant programs that this library depends upon; namely:

- the CT Library Consortium which provides books as well as training and education for staff at highly discounted rates;
- C-Card, which enables CT library card holders to borrow books from all participating libraries in the state;
- C-Car, an interlibrary delivery system (eg. interlibrary loans);
- and CT Education Network (CEN), which provides free public internet access.

Director Carter will be joining other CT library directors from the CT Library Association at the Capital on April 15th to talk to legislators about the seriousness of these impacts. Board members have committed to contacting our local legislators on this matter as well.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 pm

Respectfully submitted by Merle Potchinsky, Co-Secretary