

## Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

**Date:** May 26, 2015

**Attendance:** Judd Ayer, Chair; Delia Berlin; J. Drusilla Carter, Director; Olga Ezis; Merle Potchinsky; Mary Lou DeVivo

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

**Citizens and Delegation:** Delia Berlin mentioned that she has spoken with 2 potential board candidates who have expressed interest in serving. These individuals were invited to speak to Chairman Ayer or Director Carter about the work of this board. The Board then reflected on how they feel the impending new Walnut Street parking garage will improve the accessibility of the library for patrons who drive. Finally, the Board committed to sending a card to Elga Bivens who is convalescing at Douglas Manor.

**Minutes:** The April minutes were reviewed. Olga Ezis moved to accept the minutes as amended and Mary Lou DeVivo seconded that motion.

**Reports:** The Director's report was reviewed. Director Carter added that the vacant position was posted, applications will be accepted until Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and she expects the position to be filled by July. There was discussion about the good publicity that the library is receiving in the *Willimantic Chronicle* for the children's programming and recent programs were praised.

**Old Business:** Director Carter indicated that the State Library legal contract for the new construction was officially signed and hand-delivered to the State Library. She reviewed the process for this contract indicating that it was first reviewed by the town attorney, presented to the Town Council for approval, then signed and stamped by Town Manager, Neal Beets, and finally delivered to the State Library. Director Carter will meet with Town Engineer, Joe Gardner, to discuss the RFP (request for proposals) process. The remaining steps should take about 90 days with renovations expected to begin in the early fall. Director Carter expects summer reading programs to remain at the current Main Street location.

**New Business:** Mary Lou DeVivo suggested that the Library Board consider the process for changing the name of the library from "Willimantic Public Library" to "Windham Public Library" as Willimantic does not actually exist. Much discussion ensued and it was decided to table the matter until our next meeting in June. Drusilla reminded the Board that the budget did pass and the library will receive a 2% increase in funds. However, the town issued a spending freeze for all non-essential items. It became apparent to Director Carter that the King Trust, Fahey Trust and Library Fund, which are special discretionary funds and not general funds, also were frozen when she attempted to use money from one of the funds for book orders. The Board

will be sending a letter to Neal Beets and Chris Johnson to help rectify this error and make the funds available for use.

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

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm

Respectfully submitted by Merle Potchinsky, Co-Secretary