

Willimantic Public Library Board Minutes

Date: October 26, 2010

Attendance: Judd Ayer, Chairman, Jean Jakoboski, Ted Perch, Neil Mesick, Kay Haskell

Absent: Dennis Cronin, Olga Kurnyk-Izis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m.

Report of the Director

1. The internet aspect of the library needs to be strengthened. Miranda Creative, Inc. in Norwich will be working on the new website. They have done the library web pages for Wetherfield, Thompson, among other libraries. Today web pages are interactive. 1200 people visit the website each month
2. A new service called Universal Class enables access to 500 adult education classes. CEU's can be earned with these courses. A wide variety of subjects were noted such as autism, how to be a landlord. This is provided by Recorded Books and may be available to patrons in January. This would eliminate the need for some types of books on the same subjects.
3. We will be subscribing once again to downloadable books.
4. Library staff will be encouraged to take classes at the Service Center on computer related subjects.
5. A request is being made for funding to have an architect redesign the interior of the library to make more efficient use of existent space.
6. New locks and keys are being installed due to problems with minor theft over the past months.

Old Business

Discussion was held on whether ads on the website were a good idea or not. On the positive side, the library would be pulling in funds. The Friends of the Library is the fund raising arm of the library and this might work on the Friends of the Library web page.

Friends of the Library

Kay Haskell, President of the Friends of the Willimantic Library made a short presentation at the end of the meeting.

1. Copies of the Articles of Organization were distributed.
2. Membership forms were available for Board members to support the Friends by becoming members. There is a need for all of us to remind people in the town to join the Friends.
3. Some of the Friends will be attending the Annual Friends of CT Conference in New Britain on November 6.

4. Some highlights: 2 successful Book Discussion groups were started. Monthly Programs were publicized and held for September and October. We received great press! A Bookshelf was established to sell books not needed by the Library along with books by over 20 local writers for Sale! We have over 25 Members of Friends and more added every month. We have an Active Board of Friends of eight who meet and work on fundraising and programs monthly.
5. Not as many of our patrons have attended our Programs as we would have liked. The Friends would appreciate more support from staff. The Friends need a sign put up and an area established to publicize Programs. Maybe the front window? The Friends would like more feedback from the Staff and Board as to programs requested by patrons or interest by patrons or possible programs that might be offered by patrons or staff.
6. Kay will be leaving CT at the end of November.

New Business

The Eastern CT Assistive Technology Center will be doing an assistive technology presentation on Wednesday, November 10, 11 a.m. at the library. The Board approves use of the window area in the lobby for the use of Friends to promote programming.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted by Jean Jakoboski, 10/28/2010