

Library Board Town of East Hartford

Minutes of Regular Meeting
March 21, 2016
Raymond Library
Lower Level Room 2A

Present: Joanne Sullivan, Rose Tavgian, Mary Mourey, Florence Schroeter,
Joanne Covey and Library Director Susan Hansen

Excused Absences: Debra Arrieta and Todney Harris

Absent: Sally Pelletier

Call to Order: Vice Chairperson Rose Tavgian called the meeting to order at 6:35pm.

Approval of Minutes:

MOTION: by Joanne Sullivan to approve the regular minutes of the November 16, 2015.
Seconded by Mary Mourey
Motion carried

Librarian's report:

Librarian's Report: Library Board Meeting, March 21, 2016

Children's and Teen: The children's department is hosting a Youth Services program called "Strong Kids." It is a 12-week program for children in grades 3-5 designed to promote social and emotional learning. Library staff is ordering a collection of books to support the educational content of the programming. The children's department had previously hosted a similar program for younger ages and, based on its popularity, it was agreed that Youth Services would offer this next program here as well.

The Children's Librarian has recruited an active Teen Advisory Board. The members are planning teen programs for the spring and summer. They also assist with some of the larger children's programs. For Teen Tech Week they had offered a 3D-Printing workshop where all the kids who participated learned to design their own key rings.

Children's staff are already working on plans for the summer reading program. This year's national theme is "On Your Mark, Get Set, Read." The staff will visit every elementary school in town to promote summer reading.

Adult programs: In February, the EHPL became the first public library in the state to receive a license to host TED talks. The first TEDx talk was very successful. In all, 32 people attended which is a very good showing for a first-time event. Several suggestions for future talk topics were submitted by the attendees and positive feedback was reported to staff. The topic for April is Creativity; suggestions received included racism, relationships, body image, and dating.

The "First Friday" film series began in March with a showing of "Bridge of Spies." The library will show free films every first Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. The April movie is "Room."

Award-winning pastel artist Elizabeth Rhoades of Stafford Springs, CT, is exhibiting a selection of her works on the upper level of the atrium and in the quiet reading area. The library is working on plans to hold a "Meet the Artist" event when Elizabeth takes her artwork down later this spring.

Grant news: The library was officially notified by Martha Chace of CLARCOR that its grant application for the LEGO Mindstorms robotics program for teens has been approved. CLARCOR will be donating \$4000 to the Raymond Library Company to be used to purchase LEGO Mindstorms robotics kits along with a full robotics teaching curriculum. Children's and Teen staff will offer the robotics course both in the library and in the schools as an after-school activity.

The library was also notified TODAY (!) that it has been selected as one of the 50 national finalists to host the American Library Association's "Thinking Money" exhibition. Thinking Money is a museum-quality, financial literacy exhibit geared toward middle school and high school-aged students and their parents. The exhibit will be installed in the MakerSpace. The exact date will be determined in a few weeks.

Budget News: The library budget for FY 2016-2017 was presented to the Town Council on February 27th and later approved by the town. The budget included increases for additional part-time hours and for custodial supplies. Small decreases were made where possible to demonstrate my good-faith effort to submit a budget with a 0% increase as requested. I truly appreciate the letter of support written by Rose Tavigian.

Library Director: Last week I submitted the library's renovation and expansion project to *American Libraries* magazine for consideration in their annual "Library Design" issue.

The library will be notified during the summer if it is selected to be one of the highlighted projects.

On March 3, 2016, I submitted my letter of resignation to the Mayor and gave four weeks' notice of my intention to leave my position as the Director of Libraries. I am extremely proud of the work I have done here, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity I had to work with the town on the renovation project. My final day at the library will be March 31. The library staff is ready to carry on the day-to-day operations while the search for a new director is completed.

Old business:

April Library Conference- Florence Schroeter and Todney Harris(Vice Chair will confirm with him) will attend conference.

New business:

Tabled -Selection of new Chairperson for Board

Adjournment: Motion made to accept adjournment by Joanne Sullivan and seconded by Florence Schroeter at 7:00pm

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Tavigian, Acting Secretary
Minutes subject to approval