

**TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES**

December 9, 2009

Trumbull Library

Members Present: James J. Cebulski, Chairman, Tara Liskov, Vice Chairman, Carol Porrata Elstein, Treasurer, John J. Lauria, Anthony Pettiti, Mary Whatley

Members Absent: Arthur J. Kukla, Joseph Schlig

Also Present: Susan J. Horton, Library Director, Joanne Orenstein, Clerk

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Chairman Cebulski.

There were no members of the public present.

Correspondence: Ms. Horton distributed a thank you card from the Library Staff thanking the Board for funding the Holiday party. 29 people attended. Mr. Cebulski read an e-mail received from Mr. Kukla, in which Mr. Kukla stated support for the Golf event providing there would be no staff involvement, that the Micklus foundation provide liability insurance and pay for the opening and closing of the Library, as well as clean up.

Minutes: Mr. Lauria made a motion to approve the Minutes, Mr. Pettiti seconded. VOTE: Ms. Whatley abstained, all others approved.

Chairman's Report: Mr. Cebulski reported that the Board had approved \$6000 to engage D'Andrea and Associates to certify a parking lot plan. Mr. DelVecchio had his certified engineers and surveyors draw a plan, thereby making it unnecessary to bring it to D'Andrea. DelVecchio and his staff can do it as drawn, for the cost of materials, estimated at about \$10,000, which seems well within reach. The final amount will need to be finalized, but the \$6000 can be used for materials. Ms. Porrata Elstein wants to investigate the cost/feasibility of using ecological pavers. She is also concerned about exiting onto a State Road (Route 127).

The trailer that was unacceptable to the Friends is being repaired by Mr. DelVecchio and staff. They are fixing the sky light and door.

Dmitri Paris, the Parks Director, said the trees where the parking lot is slated are all compromised in one way or another, and therefore, dying. He would like to put in new trees that are more suited to the environment.

Mr. Cebulski stated that Mr. Kukla has been pushing for a budget spreadsheet and a copy of the justification letter. At the last meeting, Mr. Cebulski felt the groundwork was laid for setting the priorities on the budget. He feels the Board's responsibility is to ask the Library Administrator and support those requests to the Town, or getting outside funding. He does not feel it is the Board's job to look over the budget line by line. The change of administration will affect the budget. The Board members present all agreed with Mr. Cebulski's position.

Director's Report: Ms. Horton reported that Jean Rabinow has stepped down from the Friends'. they were voting that evening for her replacement. Ms. Horton requested \$30,000 for One Book/One Town.

The Administration failed to invite Ms. Horton to a meeting of all the Town Department heads, because the Library is not on the Town Hall directory. But she was put in touch with the new Chief of Staff, Dan Nelson. They had a good conversation. He talked about all the places they are trying to save money. Ms. Horton told him the Library represents 1% of the entire budget, and it has decreased in the last 5 years. They discussed Sunday hours, and how the Library would like the ability to decide how their funds are spent. They talked about the parking problem and extending the lot. Ms. Schwartz suggested having Mr. Herbst and Mr. Nelson over for a tour of the Library: Ms. Horton confirmed she already invited them. They talked about technology and what the Library needs. Ms. Schwartz noted that Connecticut Magazine in their rating of towns showed that Trumbull spent much less on the library than comparably sized towns.

Treasurer's Report: Ms. Porrata Elstein stated that the Stern and Mezick cds are coming due. Mr. Lauria suggested looking at the Fairfield County Bank for a good rate. They had an unexpected \$3500 expense to repair the furnace. Over, the Board funds are in good shape.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch: Ms. Whatley reported that there was some question as to whether she and Mr. Cebulski were still representing Fairchild-Nichols. The First Selectman is supposed to notify the Fairchild-Nichols Board that their terms are up and then act on it. (Mr. Pettiti's term is also about to expire.) One past member at the 80th Anniversary Association Celebration was unhappy about a lack of acknowledgement shown them, so they have planned a Valentine's event to do so. They are not having a December meeting. They have a new member, Kathy Duran, who had been very active in the Booth Hill PTA.

Old Business: Mr. Cebulski polled the Board for their positions on the Micklus Foundation's Golf Event. The Board was in support of it, feeling it was good PR for the Library, but all agreed with Mr. Kukla -- that the Micklus Foundation have the appropriate liability insurance, that they use their own people and not Library Staff. Ms. Porrata Elstein suggested the Board volunteer to watch over the Library, and thought perhaps some of the staff would be willing to volunteer as well. Ms. Liskov thought it should be a 50/50 split. Mr. Cebulski will speak to Chris Micklus and invite her to a meeting outside the Board meeting. Ms. Liskov will also attend, and it was suggested Mr. Kukla also be there.

New Business: The Nominating Committee consisting of Mr. Lauria, Mr. Pettiti and Ms. Whatley presented a slate of officers:

Chairman: Jim Cebulski

Vice Chairman: Carol Porrata Elstein

Treasurer: Diane Schwartz

There were no other nominations made from the Board. Ms. Liskov made a motion to accept the Slate as presented, Mr. Pettiti seconded. VOTE: All in favor.

Ms. Horton said Nicole Cignoli, the Program Coordinator wanted to know the status of the Spring Gala. The Board indicated they would prefer to have it in the summer, but will discuss further at

the January meeting.

Adjournment: Mr. Lauria made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Pettiti seconded. VOTE: All in favor at 8pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
Clerk

Approved:

James J. Cebulski, Chairman
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, January 13th at 7pm.