

**TRUMBULL LIBRARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MINUTES**

April 13, 2011

Trumbull Library

Members Present: Tara Liskov, Chair, James Cebulski, Vice Chair, Joan B. Hamill, John J. Lauria, Carol Porrata-Elstein, Jeannine Stauder, Mary Whatley

Members Absent: Arthur A. Kukla, Anthony Pettiti

Also Present: Susan J. Horton, Library Director, Joanne Orenstein, Clerk; Kathy Ritch, Linda Kentosh and John Williamson, members of the Long Hill Garden Club

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by Chairwoman Liskov.

Public Session: Ms. Liskov introduced the representatives of the Long Hill Garden Club. They have money available to help with plantings for the parking lot. Mr. Cebulski explained that right now, the plans for the parking lot are being reviewed and discussion of planting is premature. The Department of Public Works has been reorganized.

On another note, Mr. Williamson mentioned his grandson loves the book “Flat Stanley” and he was very impressed with the helpfulness of the Library staff.

Correspondence: Joseph Schlig e-mailed that he had served on the Library Board for 6 years, not 3 years, as was stated in last month’s minutes. Ms. Liskov determined that the correct dates of Mr. Schlig’s service were September 2006 through December 2010. Ms. Liskov apologized for misstating Mr. Schlig’s years of service.

Minutes: Mr. Lauria noted the correct date of the meeting was April 13, not 12. Ms. Liskov noted the Starbucks gift certificate given to Mr. Schlig was \$20, not \$25. Mr. Lauria made a motion to approve the March 9th minutes, with the corrections noted. Ms. Whatley seconded. **VOTE:** 6 in favor, 1 abstention.

Chairwoman’s Report: Ms. Liskov reported she had met with the Garden Club prior to the meeting and suggested they come to the Board Meeting.

Director’s Report: Ms. Horton reported the One Book/One Town’s last program, the Trumbull High School Debate Team, took place on April 12th. Ms. Horton said the Planning Committee selected a great book and it will be hard to top next year. The book contained issues that mattered and had broad appeal. It also was Amazon’s Book of the Year. Because of the strong financial support, not a dime came from the Library budget. Sponsors included Friends of the Trumbull Library, Peoples’ United Bank, TD Bank, Newtown Savings Bank, the Claire T. Hampford Foundation and Trumbull Rotary. Ms. Hammill said all the programs were very well done. The High School Debate team was a real high point.

The Town Council ended up using First Selectman's budget numbers and passed our Library 2011-12 Budget requests without the upgrade for the Teen Librarian. The monies for repairs and maintenance in 802 line was moved from the Library to the Public Works.

Ms. Liskov commended Ms. Horton and Ms. Hammill for all their good work on One Book/One Town and said not to worry about next year's book choice – the Town has embraced the concept.

Treasurer's Report: Mr. Petitti was not present.

Fairchild-Nichols Branch: Ms. Whatley reported the e-Books are online and can be downloaded.

Old Business

Parking Lot: Mr. Cebulski reported that with the reorganization of the Department of Public Works, the Parking Lot project is being re-examined. The plans are being re-drawn and reviewed, and being put to bid. The plan will be tabled until the bids are received. The cost is expected to now be \$120,000, no where near the original estimate of about \$40,000, as the Department of Public Works will no longer do the work. Of the original estimate of \$40,000, the Library Board was expected to be responsible for approximately \$12,000- \$7,000 in Board funds and about \$5,000 in parking lot fundraising. The remainder of the cost was to be absorbed by the Department of Public Works, since the work was to be done internally. To date, the parking lot fundraising drive has netted \$5,250. Mr. Cebulski said the Board has to prepare for a major fundraiser to raise at least \$50,000. For the time being, however, Ms. Liskov said solicitation of funds for the Parking Lot will have to stop. The cutting of trees has also been postponed.

New Business:

By-Laws Committee: The Committee consists of Mary Whatley, Joanie Hammill and Anthony Pettiti. Ms. Hammill researched other libraries policies regarding the renting of community space and Ms. Whatley researched the legal issues. Ms. Whatley consulted with a lawyer who cited a case where a library won against a church group that then appealed. The judgment finally said as long as no service was held, the church group could meet in the library. The Committee is still working on a suggested policy for the Trumbull Library System. Ms. Hammill said the by-laws need to be streamlined, and the Mission Statement needs to be up front. It was suggested the Committee review all the by-laws and update them. Ms. Stauder replaced Ms. Whatley on the Committee.

It was noted that the Charter Committee of the Town considered the Library Board's request to be referred to as a Board of *Trustees*, not a Board of *Directors*, since the State Statute uses the *Trustee* designation.

Adjournment: Mr. Lauria made a motion to adjourn, Mr. Cebulski seconded.

VOTE: All in favor at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Glasser Orenstein
Clerk

Approved:

Tara Liskov, Chairman
Trumbull Library Board of Trustees

The next meeting of the Trumbull Library Board of Trustees will be Wednesday, May 11th at 7pm.