

**MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2008
(draft)**

Board President, Mr. Peter Vita called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Milford Public Library to order at 7:33 PM on November 5, 2008.

PRESENT

Mr. Vita, President
Mrs. Wanosky, Vice President
Mrs. Creedon, Secretary
Mrs. Librandi
Ms. Smith
Mr. Barnett
Mrs. Tsang
Mr. Scott Willey, Aldermanic
Liaison

EXCUSED

Ms. D'Anna, Treasurer
Dr. diFate
Mrs. Tinti

ABSENT

Ms. Manning, Aldermanic Liaison

Public Presentation: None

Disposition of minutes: Mr. Vita requested a motion to accept the minutes of the October 1, 2008 meeting. Mrs. Wanosky motioned to accept the minutes. Mrs. Creedon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report: None

Treasurer's Report: None

President's report: Mr. Vita updated the Board on the status of the renovations. The re-pointing of the south and east sides of the upper level exterior of the building has begun and will be completed before colder weather begins. Mr. Oliver, Architect for the Renovations project provided an estimate for painting at the Children's area and wall. The cost for paneling was excessive so it has been decided to go forward with painting instead. The quote for painting is approximately \$644.03.

Mr. Vita received and read a letter of complaint from Mrs. Christine Paine to the Board. Mrs. Paine stated she was saddened by an incident that she experienced with her child in the Children's Department. In her letter she states that one day, on her way back into the Children's Department with her child from Story Hour, she walked past and saw an article displayed on a computer screen where an elderly man was sitting, "**30 things to say to a naked woman**". She stated that while some adults may find this humorous, she finds this unacceptable for her small child who is under the age of eight. She also stated that the computer screens are hard to avoid as they are directly across from the little peoples bathrooms. She stated that although the library staff handled the situation well and that she was told that the filters are the best in the industry, the filter is unable to filter out emails with these sorts of attachments.

Mrs. Paine stated that she feels that the Children's Library should be an environment to foster a child's love of learning through self education and should also provide parents with the assurance that their children won't receive too much too soon. She stated that she felt that the issue is not "Societal" where we should just throw up our hands without attempting to do everything we can to protect our children. She asked for the help of the library and the Library Board to keep the little residents of Milford little, a little longer. Mrs. Paine asked that in the future she doesn't want her children to endure this type of uncomfortable situation during their library time and requested that a few changes be made by the library to avoid this in the future. Discussion ensued. Mr. Vita stated that it was noted at the last meeting that Mrs. Paine can present her case to the Board. Mrs. Tsang read an email that she sent to Mrs. Paine dated October 2, 2008 advising her that she had spoken with the City Attorney's office and advised the Library Board of her concerns at the October meeting. Mrs. Tsang advised Mrs. Paine that the Library Board adopts and approves of the library's policies and that both the City Attorney and the Library Board felt that these policies had been adhered to. Mrs. Tsang invited Mrs. Paine if she wished to, to present her concerns at tonight's Board meeting and thanked her for her interest and concern.

Discussion ensued. Mrs. Wanosky stated that the Library Board stands by the policies as they are written. It was decided to send a letter to Mrs. Paine advising her of the Board's decision. Mr. Barnett suggested possibly installing privacy screens. Mrs. Tsang stated that they have tried them in the past, but Mr. Barnett stated that they have improved with time. Mrs. Tsang stated that the library is on a list with the MIS Department for installation of new computers in the adult section of the library which may help to alleviate adult usage in the Children's Department.

Librarian's Report: Mrs. Tsang presented her proposed 2009/2010 budget to the Board. She stated that she is asking for increases in certain areas especially to meet needs of increased library circulation. Mrs. Tsang offered justifications to the Board. Discussion ensued on the needs of the library. The Board asked questions and offered suggestions to Mrs. Tsang on what requests should be made in next year's budget.

Mrs. Tsang showed the Board members a sample of a new type of recorded book called a Playaway that was purchased with State Grant money. Mrs. Tsang stated that the library ordered upwards of fifteen to twenty of the Playaways with an average price of \$40.00 each. Due to the fast pace of changing technologies, Mr. Barnett asked Mrs. Tsang whether purchasing the Playaways would be wise in comparison to downloadable books. Mrs. Tsang stated that downloadable books are far more expensive. This is a way of trying out this type of technology for less. Mrs. Tsang stated that if these prove popular she will ask the Board to approve the use of Passport Office funds towards additional purchases. Mrs. Tsang attended a workshop with Mrs. Mary Tinti. Unfortunately they learned that due to the economy, there will be cuts to the Connecticard and the regular State Grant funds in the future.

Mrs. Tsang also asked the Board to consider adding LCD monitors on both levels of the library to display library activities. Mrs. Tsang obtained a quote of \$2,995.00 for a thirty two inch monitor for the upper level and \$1,745.00 for a twenty inch monitor plus shipping costs. Mr. Barnett stated that he is sure that the larger digital displays can be obtained at a much lower cost. He will contact Mrs. Tsang with other vendor names for different options and pricing. The Board members gave Mrs. Tsang freedom to purchase these at the best possible cost working along with Mr. Barnett.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mrs. Tsang asked to set the Library Board meeting calendar for the next year. Mrs. Tsang read off the dates for 2009. It was decided to have the July meeting on July 8th, 2009 which is the Wednesday of the week following the July 4th holiday. Mrs. Creedon made a motion to accept the 2009 calendar as discussed. Mrs. Librandi seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Librandi moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. Mrs. Creedon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Joanne Sharretto, Clerk to the Board
Mrs. Linda Creedon, Secretary