

MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
October 3, 2012
(draft)

Board President, Mr. Peter Vita called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Milford Public Library to order at 7:35 pm on October 3, 2012.

PRESENT

Mr. Vita, President
Mrs. Wanosky, Vice President
Ms. D'Anna, Treasurer
Dr. diFate
Mr. Barnett
Mrs. Gaynor
Mrs. Oliver
Ms. Paula Smith, Aldermanic Liaison
Ms. Zabinski
Mrs. Tsang, Library Director

EXCUSED

Mrs. Creedon, Secretary
Mr. Frank Smith, Aldermanic Liaison

ABSENT

Mr. Vita welcomed our newest board member, Ms. Zabinski.

Public Presentation: "Libraries-The Big Picture and Where are We Going in CT" was given by Mrs. Jennifer Keohane from the Connecticut Library Consortium (CLC). She began her presentation by giving a disclaimer since she has only been at this position for 7 weeks. She gave a brief biographical sketch stating that she had become a librarian at Simsbury Public Library fourteen years ago after beginning her career in marketing and product development for a publishing company. She is continuing to use those skills in her new position. At Simsbury she developed a Business Resource Center before the economic crash of 2008 utilizing her business background.

Mrs. Keohane continued by explaining how the CLC differs from the CT State Library which is very large and provides many services, and the CT Library Association which is a trade association that individuals can belong to and is totally run by volunteers. She sees the CLC as being in between those two groups with the charge of strengthening Connecticut libraries. They are particularly known for the discount programs they negotiate with suppliers and offer to their 800 members. Last year members saw a savings of \$6.17 million. They also are involved in professional development and are able to bring libraries together to discuss issues. They are the only organization that represents all kinds of libraries in the state, which include Academic Libraries, Public Libraries, School Libraries and Special Libraries, each with their own unique needs. She sees the focus of the CLC now to strengthen their communication with all groups.

In discussing the "Big Picture" Ms Keohane had several major points. The first was that libraries are "louder" and moving to be recognized as important entities in the community. There needs to be a marketing and branding for libraries to help get out the word as to what they have, what they do and who do they do it for. She went on to mention Readers First and issues with e-Book publishers and the need to create a code of ethics with the publishers.

Libraries have reduced space for books by twenty to thirty percent in order to create community space. Libraries are replacing the traditional town green as a gathering place, but still need to provide a quiet place as well. With the increased personal use of computers and internet and even distance learning where one can obtain a degree without ever interacting with anyone else, libraries still provide that face to face interaction that is needed. The materials that people want to borrow are also changing, and examples were given.

The second trend is the "Do It Yourselfers," and the Maker Spaces. Reference was made to Chris Andersen who is tied to TED and has written, "Maker's: The New Industrial Revolution." Libraries provide the place where groups of people can be brought together to pool resources and ideas for the purpose of creating and producing new innovations. In CT there's Hacker Space in Watertown and Make Haven in New Haven. Darien Library has Maker Space with a MakerBot where you take something that's 2-D and make it 3-D, and in the same room a photography area where people can shot things to put on eBay. They also have the Publishing on Demand Machine. Westport has a physically embedded space and a Maker in Residence who's a model maker. This is being used to encourage people to come together, interact, explore the tools and be exposed to the DIY ethos of the maker movement. They also have a 3-D Printing Project.

There are other ways the DIY idea is changing libraries. One is how it is changing reference departments, and the other is how we create our collections. Examples were given and a reference made to "Freeading" and the use of tokens to purchase eBooks. There's a move toward patron driven acquisitions. Some discussion ensued on this topic and the self publishing machine. Additional ideas regarding trends toward restructuring the library and staffing were made, without reference to a single finite model.

Mrs. Keohane posed the question: "Are we on the brink or are we stalled?" There are concerns or challenges about staffing, younger people not wanting to go into the field, moving on or not with the newer technologies and the role librarians play with the skill set they bring to their position. In this digital age libraries still have an old fashion role of protecting the written word.

A brief discussion and Q&A period followed.

Disposition of minutes: Mrs. Wanosky moved to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of September 5, 2012. Mrs. Oliver seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Secretary's Report: There was no Secretary's report.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's report.

President's Report: There was no President's report.

Librarian's Report: The director described the changes that would be made to the framing of the pictures in the Program Room. She asked approval for the additional amount needed to make the changes described. Discussion ensued. **Mrs. Wanosky moved to increase the amount of money from Passport Funds to be used in the reframing and matting of the pictures in the Program Room to the amount of \$1,020. Mr. Barnett seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Mrs. Tsang asked the board to approve closing the library at 5:00 the Wed. before Thanksgiving as has been the policy in the past. **Mrs. Wanosky moved to close the library at 5:00 PM on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, as has been done in the past. Dr. diFate seconded the motion. The motion carried.**

Mrs. Tsang reminded the board members of the Friends Fund Raiser on Oct. 14, 2012 at Something of Bev's from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm noting that it was not necessary to stay for the whole time. Fliers were passed out. Mrs. Zabinski suggested that the board put on the agenda for long term planning some of the ideas bought up in the Public Presentation. She also said she would send to Mrs. Tsang a Maker Space YouTube link to Bill Derry. Mrs. Tsang stated at a future meeting she will be asking the board to approve funds for the purchase of paint for the Program Room. She added that she would also like to look into the possibility of adding an additional row of lighting to the room. Discussion ensued.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mr. Vita asked for a voluntary collection of money for the purchase of coffee and cake served at board meetings.

Mrs. Oliver moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:57 p.m. Dr. diFate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Linda Wanosky, Vice President