

**MILFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES OF OCTOBER 1, 2008
(draft)**

Board President, Mr. Peter Vita called the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Milford Public Library to order at 7:40 PM on October 1, 2008.

PRESENT

Mr. Vita, President
Mrs. Wanosky, Vice President
Mrs. Creedon, Secretary
Ms. D'Anna, Treasurer
Dr. diFate
Mrs. Librandi
Mrs. Tinti
Ms. Smith
Mrs. Tsang

EXCUSED

Mr. Barnett
Mr. Scott Willey,
Aldermanic Liaison

ABSENT

Ms. Manning, Aldermanic Liaison

Public Presentation: Mrs. Tsang introduced Mr. Stanley Carmen, Head Librarian Emeritus, who was the Head Librarian of the Taylor Library and the Milford Public Library between the years of 1967-1987. Mr. Carmen began by describing the culture at the time that he was the Head Librarian and stated that he was a Head Librarian in Minnesota before he was hired here. The Taylor Library location had become too small and it was decided that a bigger location would be built. He told his story about how the current location of the library came to be and described the planning, issues, successes and pitfalls that occurred along the way. Mr. Carmen described his role in working with the architects on the set up of the library. For instance, it was decided that the Children's Department would be on a different level and separated from the adult section. He wanted the atmosphere to be a friendly one.

In 1971, Mr. Carmen was involved in the organization of the Fine Arts Council under the Community Action Development Plan. The state provided funding to any office which encouraged communities to look at their needs within their own communities which is where the current Milford bus system was established. The two million dollar budget needed approval from the Board of Alderman and the Board of Finance. He described the help he received from the community, in particular, the Fine Arts Council and the Junior Woman's Club. There was a steering committee assembled called "**Library Now**" which organized groups to create interest in the community to support a new library and to help get the project moving by publicizing the issue. Mr. Carmen went on to describe the political happenings as well that finally led to the building of the library which was completed in 1976. The moving of the library contents took three days and it was done with staff planning and carried out by volunteers from the community. Public Works provided the transportation. The Board thanked Mr. Carmen for providing them with a history of the current library. Mrs. Tinti requested to have Mr. Carmen's talk put on CD for a permanent record for the library. Mr. Tsang said she would have that done. Mr. Carmen thanked the Board for their service to the library and to the community. Mrs. Tsang provided scrapbooks for Board members to see. Mr. Carmen was invited to stay for the meeting. Mr. Carmen accepted the invitation.

Disposition of minutes: Mr. Vita requested a motion to accept the minutes of the September 3, 2008 meeting. Mrs. Tinti asked for a correction. The minutes will be corrected as requested. Ms. D'Anna motioned to accept the minutes. Dr. diFate 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 vestibule doors have been repaired at no cost. There was a special meeting held by the committee to approve a change order for a transfer from the Mayor's Renovation Financing Account into the Renovation's Construction Account for \$12,523.00 for the re-pointing of the south and east sides of the upper level exterior of the building. Mr. Vita will follow up to be sure the work begins soon. At the top of the stairs by the elevator there is a large partition that Mrs. Tsang asked to have laminated. Olympus Construction provided a quote of \$863.00 which Mr. Vita thought was high. Mr. Vita stated that he will get back to Olympus on the quote. The handrail painting will be done by Olympus on Columbus Day weekend.

Librarian's Report: Mrs. Tsang stated that a budget meeting with the Mayor and all Department Heads is scheduled for Thursday October 16, 2008. Mrs. Tsang advised the Board members that they are welcome to offer suggestions for the next year's budget. Mrs. Tsang asked for an adjustment for holiday hours which would be to close at 5:00 pm on the day before Thanksgiving at 1:00 pm on Christmas Eve and at 5:00 pm on New Years Eve. The staff will make adjustments to their schedule. Dr. diFate made a motion to accept the holiday hour adjustments. Mrs. Wanosky seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mrs. Tsang asked for a vote from the Board on the revised Children's policy. Discussion ensued on proposed revisions. Mrs. Tinti made a motion to accept the revisions on the Children's policy. Dr. diFate seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mrs. Tsang wanted to advise the Board of an incident that happened in the Children's Department.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business: Mrs. Tsang wanted to make the Board aware of an incident that happened in the Children's Department. Mrs. Tsang stated that the MIS Department along with their consultant from CT Micronet recommended and installed a \$2,000.00 filter in the Children's Department to upgrade from Surf Control to Barracuda last year. There was a woman who walked by a computer screen in the Children's Department after leaving the Children's Program Room with her young daughter. Displayed on the screen at a terminal where a man was seated was "**50 Things you say to a Naked Lady**". The woman was upset that these words would be displayed in the Children's Department. Mrs. Tsang stated that there were no images on the screen. Mrs. Tsang took the woman up to her office and gave her a copy of the library's internet policy and told her that sometimes these things do get through the filter. Mrs. Tsang stated that this particular man had been questioned at times about his internet use.

Mrs. Tsang stated that staff with Envisionware who becomes aware of pornographic images on a screen can shut users off in both the adult and children's areas. Mrs. Tsang submitted all of the information to the City Attorney, Mr. Max Case. Mrs. Tsang stated that she has not received a written complaint at this time. Mrs. Tsang stated that she advised the woman that the Internet policy was a Board decision. Mrs. Tsang asked the woman what she would suggest. The woman suggested banning adults without children from the Children's Department remove the computers from the Children's Department or put a partition to block the children's view as they walk by. After advising Mr. Vita as to what happened, Mrs. Tsang suggested to the woman that she write a letter to the Board. Mrs. Tsang obtained statistics for the type of sites visited on the Children's Department computers and read them to the Board. Mrs. Tsang stated that there are only five internet computers in the library above what is in Children's so to remove the computers would cause a strain on the library because of the amount of people wanting to use the internet. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Tsang read from The Library Bill of Rights. She reminded the Board that the Board signed off on this bill and the library has to adhere to it. The Bill states "a person's right to use the library should not be denied or abridged because of origin, age, background or views". Discussion ensued again. Mrs. Tsang stated that there is an Internet agreement from the policy manual at each desk. It was missing from individual screens and has now been restored on each screen by Mr. Fred Danowski, who is the Automation Librarian. Along with the advice of the Board, Mrs. Tsang will send a letter stating that the Board feels this is an isolated incident, that they appreciate her concerns and if she still feels strongly about the issue to please contact the Board. Mr. Vita stated that she can address the letter to him as he is the Board Chair. They also invited her to make a presentation to the Board on the issue. Mr. Carmen stated that you may see him again sometime as it was such an interesting meeting.

Mrs. Wanosky moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Mrs. Creedon seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

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