

STRATFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
April 16, 2015

The Stratford Library Association Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Board Secretary Meg Bachtel at 7:05 p.m.

Members present:

Meg Bachtel	Tory Florek
Karla Glad	Tom Hall
Judy Hampel	Edvena Jackson
Joseph Janucik	Barb Poisson
Peg Sheahan	Cynthia Smith

Members absent:

Norman Aldrich, exc.	Constantine Chagares, exc.
Judith Crudo, exc.	Susan Fennell, exc.
Maria Ferrera, exc.	Shelley Hall, exc.
Doreen Jaekle, exc.	Deb Perman, exc.
Joel Pleban, exc.	Robyn Proto, exc.
Robert Smith, exc.	Steven Unger, exc.

Also attending: Barbara Blossveren, Director, Sheri Szymanski, Assistant Director, Colin Townsend, Youth Liaison and Heather Silverman, Administrative Assistant.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Sheahan motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mrs. Glad and approved unanimously.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report.

TEASURER'S REPORT:

No report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mrs. Blossveren reported that it has been a very busy month at SLA. We have been working extremely hard on the gala. Oronoque needs the final number by Friday April 17 at 5:00 p.m. We hope you will all come and support this event. Sunday Afternoon Talks continue to be popular. "Loss of the Quincy" brought in 56 patrons. The Maybelle Carter Concert was outstanding with a crowd of 52, all of whom were on their feet by the end!. We continue to collect items for women's supplies and shoes, as well as the ongoing food pantry collection. In March, the Lovell and Board Rooms were used by over 28 groups and the Study Rooms were used 119 times by 208 people. Focus Groups were held and facilitated by SHU faculty. There were 2 groups of users; frequent and infrequent. Many librarians, including Mrs. Blossveren and Ms. Szymanski attended a rally in Hartford on April 15th to show their support of libraries. The Connecticut State proposed budget threatens many vital library services; including Connecticut, Interlibrary Loan services and Connecticut Library Consortium.. The Pieper Endowment is being used for a new Homework Helpers program. 6 students met 8 times in March. Children visited Atria and gave paper flowers to the residents.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Szymanski reported that overall circulation increased 29% in March compared with last year. The uptick in Tumblebook children's e-book usage is the primary contributing factor and illustrates the importance of the library's downloadable collections. The library collaboration with SHU students working on our marketing/branding project continued in March. Two Focus Groups were conducted at the library. A print survey will be distributed to patrons and the teachers and students will review the input they receive. The student team is conducting a logo contest and is working toward completion of this project in early May. Ms. Szymanski and Mrs. Blosveren met with the Town Beautification Committee to discuss a volunteer opportunity for some of their members to assist with a redesign of the Library landscaping. Master gardeners will walk the property and provide ideas. They will not do the actual landscaping. Charity Garcia continues to contact a variety of agencies in town to implement formal bulletin board display spaces publicizing Library events, programs and services. The Health Department and Sterling House have both established dedicated space for the Library. New hand dryers were installed in the public bathrooms. New electrical outlets were installed in the Teen area.

YOUTH LIAISON REPORT:

Mr. Townsend reported that the Teen Department has launched a YouTube page on social media. They are seeking 500 subscribers. Mr. Townsend passed out cards with the subscription information. The first 6th Grade Finish Line program was held and 15 attended. Teens played the wii, board games and did arts & crafts. "No Boundaries" will be held on April 23; a movie will be shown. Teens will also discuss new apps and provide recommendations to each other. A representative from Big Y will hold a program on food and nutrition.

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON REPORT:

Mrs. Florek reported that the school principals are getting the 6th graders ready for middle school. They will continue to tell them the dates of the library's 6th Grade Finish Line program now being offered. The library continues to be excellent at supporting literacy in the schools.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Smith reported that there will be a fundraiser at Ninety Nine Restaurant on May 7 from 4:00 – 10:00 p.m. 15% of the diner's check will be donated to the library. Customers will need to provide the restaurant with the flyer (coupon) on May 7th. Copies will be emailed to the Board and copies will be available at the public service desks.

GALA COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Poisson reported that Oronoque needs the final number of guests by 5:00 p.m. on April 17th. We have 26 packages for the Silent Auction. We have secured a time share package this year. It should be a great event. Please come and bring your friends!

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No report.

BOOK COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Glad reported that they are sorting every Saturday after 1:00 p.m. in the Cave. The Book Sale is June 4, 5, 6 and 7th. Signup sheets will be available at the May Board meeting.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE:

No report.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

No report.

GRIEVANCE/NEGOTIATIONS:

No report.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

No report.

ENDOWMENT:

No report.

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE:

No report.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Ms. Bachtel reported that 2 scholarship winners have been selected, Lauren Goodrich and Ayanna Staton, both from Stratford High School. They will receive letters informing them and inviting them to the July Board meeting. A reception will be held before the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Janucik reminded everyone to please contact their representatives to support state funding for Connecticut libraries.

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Janucik to adjourn at 8:18 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hall and approved unanimously. The Board will meet next on May 21, 2015 in the Lovell Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Meg Bachtel
Secretary

ANY INDIVIDUAL WITH A DISABILITY WHO NEEDS SPECIAL ASSISTANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE MEETING SHOULD CONTACT THE ADA COORDINATOR, SUSAN PAWLUK AT 385-4020 OR 385-4022 (TDD) 5 DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING, IF POSSIBLE.