

STRATFORD LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
MAY 19, 2016

The Stratford Library Association Board of Trustees meeting was called to order by Board President Judy Hampel at 7:04 p.m.

Members Present:

Meg Bachtel

Karla Glad

Judith Hampel

Doreen Jaekle

Joel Pleban

Maria Ferrera

Thomas Hall

Edvena Jackson

Joseph Janucik

Robyn Proto

Members Absent:

Constantine Chagares, exc.

Tory Florek, exc.

Kim Kadeem, exc.

Barb Poisson, exc.

Cynthia Smith, exc.

Jim Connor, exc.

Shelley Hall, exc.

Deb Perman, exc.

Peg Sheahan, exc.

Robert Smith, exc.

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

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Glad motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Mr. Hall and approved unanimously. It was noted that Shelley Hall arrived late to the April Board meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

No report.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Mr. Pleban reported that the Town Operating budget is 83% spent through April. Expenses have been in line with normal spending. Materials and processing are on target. Mr. Pleban also reported that the Board accounts represent income from fundraising for the Gala. After review of the April Town and Board reports, Mr. Janucik motioned for approval, seconded by Ms. Bachtel and approved unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ms. Szymanski reported that *the Great Movies You Missed* series had a great line-up of little-seen but critically acclaimed pictures. This program was run by Tom Holehan. CT Post Movie Critic Joe Meyer attended and introduced *Ex Machina*. He is always a great speaker. *Quickies in the Stacks: Quoth the Bard* was held to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. The local play writing group offered 10 minute play festival to a crowd of 80. Shakespeare's bust was moved to the Lobby for patrons to take selfies. *Passport to CT Libraries* was held in April. 84 passports were distributed and 177 were stamped. *#Throwback Thursdays* is a program geared to adults under 40. 17 people met for a Crafter Dark session on April 14th. The *Career Coach* visited on April 25th. In addition to their regular resume and job search assistance, they hosted a Microsoft Word class for 6 people. Teen Services, Circulation and

Technical Services staff spent the day at Stratford High School on April 5th, registering 150 students for Library cards. Library information was given to 300 students. Eight *Welcome Baby* kits were distributed to new parents. Special Vacation Week Children's programs included Young at Art, Craft with Sally V, Puzzle Day, Favorite Book Day, Portrait Day, Become a Superhero, Flea Circus with Ed Popielarczyk, Minecraft Bingo and Olivia Loves Music. Susan Lohr and Ann Stockman visited Atria on April 28th and provided reading materials and social interaction with residents.

Adult Fiction (all genres) was popular this month, as were the Teen Graphic Novels and Horror Titles and Biographies for all ages. Attendance at Library programs rose significantly this month (35%) compared with last year. Patrons continue to use the Library to access the Internet, with a 10% increase in wifi sessions over last year. Interest in the Library's premium online services continues to grow, with a 164% increase in the use of Hoopla videos, a 33% increase in Consumer Reports, 153% increase in A to Z Databases and 92% in Tumblebooks. To celebrate National Poetry Month, Two Roads Brewing Company donated \$1,244 which will be used to support One Book, One Stratford programs. Ebsco was able to obtain sponsorship for a charging station in the Lobby. The unit arrived and is in place in the Lobby. Local dentist, Dr. Mogelof has agreed to be the sponsor. Corrine Driscoll completed a project to review the Library's photocopier needs for both staff and public. A new vendor has been selected and plans for transition are in place. Many staff attended the Connecticut Library Association (CLA) conference in Hartford on April 28th and 29th. Workshops and speaker topics included: 3-D Printer Design, Coding, Community Outreach, Apps for Teens, Libraries as Publishers, Advocacy and Gaming. SLA welcomed 2 new pages: Benjamin Canevari and Anne Gallagher. Chris Bacchiocchi and Beth Rogers-Ho attended an all day coding and computer science pedagogy workshop offered by Code.org. A non-resident patron thanked SLA for sending her an email reminder to renew her library card. Our system automatically generates an email reminder for library card renewals, along with pre-overdue notices and notification of items on hold.

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Included in the Director's Report.

YOUTH LIAISON REPORT:

Mr. Townsend reported that the Teen Department will provide assistance to the Book Sale committee. The Teen Department is working on the 29th Edition of the *Gold Seal Book List*. This is a list comprised by Teens for Teens. They are also working on the 8th Edition of *Varied Voices*. The theme is Duality. The Summer Reading List is in progress. The 6th *Grade Finish Line* program series was held on April 26th. 12 kids attended and enjoyed board games, worked on crafts and got to know other teens before middle school begins in September. The next program will be held on June 21st.

BOARD OF EDUCATION LIAISON REPORT:

No report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Ms. Bachtel reported that the committee met and talked about having a Donor Day on September 11th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. This event would be for Adults only, and include wine & cheese, sweets, a meet and greet with Board and Staff, Department displays, technical demos and entertainment in the Lovell Room. Mr. Chagares will give a history of SLA. Mr. Holehan is working on entertainment for this event. The next meeting will be held on June 13th at 6:30 p.m.

GALA COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Jaekle reported that date for next year is April 29, 2017 and will be held at Oronoque Country Club. The tentative name for the gala is Back to Broadway and Beyond.

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

No report.

BOOK COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Glad reported that the committee needs a lot of help sorting and setting up for the Book Sale. The committee continues to sort donations every Saturday at 1:15pm. She passed out signup sheets and encouraged everyone to sign up. The book collection bin will remain in the Lobby until May 21st. The Book Sale will run June 2 ó 5.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS:

Ms. Szymanski reported that DeMezzo Landscaping worked on a variety of springtime projects; including replacing mulch with gravel, planting a Holly bush, grinding the stump of the Copper Beech and seeding the area with grass seed. Our electricians replaced light fixtures, exhaust fans, tract lighting and illuminated the marble SLA sign in front of the library. Pat Hannon power washed the sign and it looks like a new sign.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW:

Mrs. Proto reported that she would like to table this report until the end. The Board will go into Executive Session following this meeting.

GRIEVANCE/NEGOTIATIONS:

No report.

TRUSTEE REPORT:

No report.

ENDOWMENT:

Mr. Pleban reported that as of April 30, the value of the Trust is up .1% before disbursements and down 4.2% after disbursements.

NEW MEMBER COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Hampel reported that the New Member Orientation was held on May 9th and went well. Mr. Chagares was recorded giving the history of SLA.

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Ms. Bachtel reported that the committee selected 2 recipients. One from Stratford High and one from Bunnell. The winners will be invited to attend the July 21st meeting to receive their checks.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mrs. Hampel reported that Mrs. Perman has volunteered to be the head of the nominating committee. Nominations will take place at the June meeting.

Ms. Szymanski explained the following budget line items: Office Supplies, Building Supplies, Postage and Printing.

Mrs. Proto requested to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Hall and approved unanimously. The Board came out of Executive Session at 8:16 p.m.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Janucik to adjourn at 8:17 p.m., seconded by Ms. Bachtel and approved unanimously. The Board will meet next on June 16, 2016 in the Board Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meg Bachtel
Vice President

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.