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Library Trustee Minutes 02/08/11

Robbins Library Board of Trustees
Meeting
February 8, 2011

Call to Order:

Chairman Kathryn Gandek-Tighe called the meeting to order at 7:25 pm. Attending were trustees Brigid Kennedy-Pfister, Barbara Muldoon, and Joyce Radochia. Also attending was the Library Director, Maryellen Loud. Heather Calvin, Kathy Fennelly and Frank Murphy were absent.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the meeting of January 11, 2011 were read. Ms. Muldoon moved to accept the minutes as corrected; Ms. Radochia seconded; the board approved the minutes as corrected.

Communications:

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees received an invitation to the annual meeting of the Arlington Boys and Girls Club on May 3 at the Hilton Hotel in Woburn. Ms. Loud will attend.

Donna Eidson, Director of Arlington Community Education recommended that the board adopt the policy used by Brookline and display only our own town's community education brochure. The consensus of the board was to continue with the current practice of displaying brochures from other towns along with our own.

Community Time:

No unscheduled members of the community were present at the meeting.

Director's Report:

The trustees briefly reviewed a preliminary version of the January Director's Report.

FY 2012 Budget :

Ms. Loud reported that at this time the library is expecting a budget cut of approximately \$159,000, less than originally anticipated. Taking into consideration input from the trustees at the January meeting Ms. Loud and Brian Sullivan decided upon a reduction in library hours (closing one night per week) and putting more money into books and materials.

Fundraising Foundation:

Since Ms. Fennelly was not present the board was unable to discuss the library foundation.

LSTA:

Michele Meagher, whom the library director hired as grant assistant, arrived to speak with the board about the \$7,500 grant awarded to Robbins for programming of interest to older active adults, 50 to 70 years of age. After conducting a survey of that target group Ms. Meagher will plan programs for March through September. The grant money (\$4,000 for programming, the remainder for books and a stipend for the project assistant) must be spent by

September 30, 2011. Ms. Meagher proposed to the board that sponsors be identified with the objective of being able to find the financial resources from the business community to continue programming after the grant money is spent. Because of the issues involved in soliciting sponsorship of library programs the board decided to table the partnership-with-business topic until a full board could be present and invited Ms. Meagher to attend the March meeting.

Community Read:

The Community Read committee will need to meet soon to make this year's selection. The committee welcomes suggestions.

Literacy Promotion:

Ms. Loud reported on the Rotary Club's interest in participating with the library in developing a program or activity for families that promotes literary, such as a "Turn-off- your-television week. Pam Watts-Flavin, the Head of Children's Services, will coordinate with Ms. Loud on this project as well as oversee the literacy grant which was provided by the Rotary Club.

Books in Bloom:

On Friday, March 4, the Arlington Garden Club and the Friends of the Library will co-sponsor a repeat of last year's very successful event. Floral arrangements inspired by literature are the highlight of this evening, which also includes local authors displaying and selling their books. Food, drink, and music will also be provided. Tickets are available at the library.

Friends Update:

In addition to Books in Bloom, upcoming Friends' programs include the following:

- February 17 – genealogy program
- March 26 – children's book sale
- April 13 – music with Diane Taraz
- May 12 – antiques appraisal

Other:

Ms. Loud reported that patrons sometimes challenge staff who attempt to enforce the Teen Area Policy, which states that the teen area is off-limits to unattended adults, even during school hours. Since home schoolers and students from Arlington High School use the area during school hours the policy was set to provide a comfortable and safe adult-free zone at all times. Ms Loud discussed placing signage on the microfilm machines to deter adults from sitting there for extended times without using the machines as this area is within the Teen collection. The consensus of the board was to deal with the issue on an individual basis.

Ms. Loud would like to put the Meeting Room Policy on the agenda of a future meeting.

Date of Next Meeting and Adjournment:

The next meeting will be March 8, 2011.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce H. Radochia

Documents Provided:

- Agenda for Robbins Library Board of Trustees Meeting of February 8, 2011

- Draft Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting of January 11, 2011
- Director's Report/January 2011/Preliminary
- Transportation Advisory Committee recommendations
- Arlington Boys & Girls Club annual meeting invitation