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Library Trustees Minutes 10-09-2007

Robbins Library Board of Trustees

October 9, 2007

Book Discussion

Board members participated in a forty-minute discussion of the library's Community Read selection "To Kill a Mockingbird", led by Trustee Chair Katharine Fennelly.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 PM. Attending were trustees Patricia Deal, Katharine Fennelly, Barbara Muldoon, Frank Murphy and Joyce Radochia. David Castiglioni was absent. Also attending were director Maryellen Loud and assistant director Cynthia Diminture.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 11th meeting were approved as written on a motion by Ms. Deal; seconded by Mr. Murphy.

Communications

A letter was received from poet Miriam Levine proposing a book signing of her book "The Dark Opens", to be published in January. Proceeds would be given to the library. The Board agreed to allow the use of the Reading Room for this event, with Ms. Loud coordinating the details.

Director's Report

Discussion took place about The Taste of Arlington event and library programs.

Budget Report

There is nothing yet to report. Ms. Loud will keep the Board apprised of the process.

Financial Summit Recap

Ms. Loud discussed the process used at this meeting. During a prior summit, services were prioritized and ideas were discussed to raise revenue or save money. At this one, participants were charged with thinking of more ideas and then prioritizing them. For the purposes of the exercise, Libraries and Human Services were joined together. Some

suggestions were: Rental of space at the Fox Branch Library; Fees for business use of the Community Room at Robbins; Move Fox to the Gibbs School building; Increase the annual fund drive; Increase advertising for the rental spaces; Combine school and library functions. Ms. Loud will evaluate the usefulness of the suggestions and prepare a report.

Fundraising Letter

A draft of this year's solicitation letter was distributed. Changes in wording and syntax were suggested. The plan is to send the letter by the end of October.

Author Program

A flyer for the November 4th program with Claire Cook has been mailed and a poster will be mounted in the lobby tomorrow. An honorarium was discussed. Ms. Muldoon and Ms. Fennelly volunteered to bring refreshments. Nathaniel Philbrick sent regrets for the spring author program. Trustees will need to consider other potential speakers.

Spengler Lecture Series

The sub-committee for the inaugural event in the Margaret Spengler lecture series held a meeting prior to the Board meeting. Attending were Joyce Radochia, Patricia Deal, Mark Spengler and Elaine Shea. The program, with Jeanne Shaheen as the speaker, will take place on Tuesday, November 20th in the town hall auditorium. The Board talked about funding for the event. Since the Selectmen had previously agreed to co-sponsor the lecture series, it is hoped that they will share the costs. This would provide seed money for the series and fundraising would be undertaken in future years to sustain it. Ms. Deal made a motion; seconded by Ms. Muldoon, that the Board of Trustees contribute \$1,000 from the Farmer Fund toward the inaugural event in the Margaret Spengler lecture series, with a provision for joint sponsorship with the Board of Selectmen. Passed unanimously. Invitations will be sent to members of town boards and commissions and town meeting members. Details are still to be worked out regarding the program order, refreshments, flowers and publicity.

Friends of the Library Update

Ms. Diminture apprised the Board of the status of the Friends' activities. They will be sponsoring the benefit performance of "To Kill a Mockingbird" by the Arlington Friends of the Drama on Sunday, October 14th, in cooperation with the library's community read project. On Thursday, October 25th, the Friends will host storytellers Diane Edgecomb and Kate Chadbourne for "Tales of the Supernatural", spooky stories for adults. On Thursday, November 8th, Leith Colen, editor of "The Book Bag" will visit the library for a book talk. A firm date, May 15th, has been set for the Antiques Appraisal Evening with Stuart Whitehurst of Skinner, Inc.

Funding Requests

Ms. Loud requested that the Board provide funding for several purchases, including additional paperback shelving and CD displayers, security cameras, upholstering of chairs and appraisal of prints and art objects. The paperback collection has already been extensively weeded and more shelves are still needed. Some existing spinner racks will be replaced with metal shelving. CD displayers do not hold as many CDs as originally anticipated, so additional units will be needed to adequately house the collection. Several chairs in the Children's Room need re-upholstering. Books of art prints and several art objects are in need of updated appraisals. The Board was favorably disposed towards all of these projects, but asked Ms. Loud to bring more precise cost estimates to a future meeting.

Chamber of Commerce Award Ceremony

Nancy Gentile will be the recipient of the 2007 Employee of the Year award from the Chamber of Commerce. It will be conferred at an awards dinner on November 14th. Mr. Murphy made a motion; seconded by Ms. Deal, to allocate up to \$300 from the staff recognition budget for the purchase of a table so that staff members may attend the dinner. Passed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM on a motion by Mr. Murphy. The next meeting will take place on November 13th at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Diminture