

FARMINGTON LIBRARIES
SINCE 1901
Service Beyond Expectations

Maureen Bittner
Secretary

Library Board Minutes
December 13, 2017

Attendees: Alan Sherman, Jorie Andrews, Jadwiga Gocłowski, Maureen Bittner, Lori Yu, May Munson, Allison deVaux, Sherry Perrie, Jay Johnston, Laura Horn

Absent: Peter Bartucca, Ida Franklin, Gary Palumbo, Wendy Ku, Kelly Creuss

Quorum: The meeting convened at 7:03 PM and a quorum was determined.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 15, 2017 meeting were reviewed and approved.

Metrics/Budget: Metrics reflect consistent trends and the budget is on track.

Executive Director's Report: Jay expanded upon Verizon's interest in installing an antenna on the Main Library's roof. Jay is currently negotiating a lease contract with Verizon to generate a funding stream for the Libraries' endowment. Citing steadily falling attendance, Jay reported that the Farmers Market will not continue in 2018. The recently restored Martin Bull book was viewed by Betty and Alan Coykendall, who appreciated the quality of the conservation. Jay was excited to report that Janice Carroll, a marvelous and extremely knowledgeable volunteer, has agreed to take on an organizational project in the Farmington Room. Further, John Teahan has volunteered to assist us in cataloging the Farmington Room collection. For many years the Library Director at the Wadsworth Atheneum and recently a member of the Library Board, John plans to join us when he starts his full retirement next month.

Director of Operations Report: Laura reported on the following Long Range Plan programs:

Community Development

1. Children's Services hosted a Chinese language playgroup, which brought many new families into the library. The Chinese language book collection was highlighted during this event.
2. The Children's Librarian met with elementary school librarians and discussed and exchanged ideas relating to the 2017 Summer Reading program. Children's Department team members will be collaborating with school librarians to share ideas and build a sense of continuity between the public library and schools.

Chairs' Report:

Alan reviewed the November meeting discussion regarding the Resources policy articulated in the Library Policy Manual (p49). As it reads, the current goal is that at least 15% of the Libraries' annual operating budget be spent on new materials for the collection. After a good deal of lively discussion a motion was made (Perrie, Yu) to amend the policy as follows: "Recognizing that budget levels will vary and may require a flexible approach to the addition of new materials during each budget year, it is the stated goal of the Library to budget at least 8% of the total annual operating budget for the addition of new material to the collection." The motion was unanimously approved. This change is based on historic data showing a prior six-year average of approximately 8% per year.

Alan then reviewed the November meeting discussion regarding the deaccessioning and conservation of the Libraries' art. Alan reminded the Board that maintenance of the art collection is the Libraries' responsibility. Board members are in agreement that such maintenance is important. We have been advised by FVGLA treasurer, Mike Schloss, that the Board has the authority to expend endowment proceeds to maintain the art collection. The possibility of obtaining grant funding to conserve art pieces was raised, and Jay will look into the availability of such restoration grants. Alan suggested establishing a process whereby the Board would receive recommendations from the Art Committee to proceed with a scheduled conservation program based upon the recommended repairs submitted by Tom Yost in 2008. (Tom Yost is the conservator who repaired five paintings during the 2008-10 Barney Library restoration and expansion project.) The Art Committee will report further at a later date.

Finally, Alan discussed the art deaccessioning review he and Jay conducted in November-December. There is currently no standard procedure in place regarding deaccessioning of art. After some discussion, it was decided that a procedural checklist would be developed by the Art Committee and that deaccessioning recommendations would require Board review.

Farmington Room: See comments in Director's Report.

Art Committee: None

New Business: None

Other Business/Announcements:

Friends – Jadwiga reported that the Friends' recent book sale was very successful.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Bittner, Secretary