

## Weston Public Library Board Meeting March 4, 2014

PRESENT: Michael Bellacosa, Denis Toner, Lynne Langlois, Harriet Heller, Joan Henderson, Rick Ross, Anne Hunt and Director Karen Tatarka

By phone: Barbara Groves

ABSENT: Amy Sanborn

Vice-Chairman Bellacosa called the meeting to order at 7:50 PM.

### Treasurer's Report

- No report this month.

### Board Governed Funds

- Treasurer Toner announced that documents are ready to be reviewed by Pat Sullivan this Thursday.

### Budget

- The Selectemen approved the \$5,000 increase in Books and Materials funds.
- All the Vitale related Strategic and Space Planning documents have been sent to the Board of Finance. The BOF will be meeting on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 in the Meeting Room of Town Hall. Director Tatarka encouraged all board members to attend.

### Space and Strategic Planning

- A final report will be written to include generalizations of the findings from the focus groups, public forum and the surveys. There won't be any statistical data included.
- Member Ross will be compiling the surveys which will be ending on March 10<sup>th</sup>.
- A thank you note will be sent to all participants of the focus groups along with a follow-up report of the findings which they requested.

### Technology

- The new library web site was launched late this afternoon. Karen Bennett took training to handle the new format. This should help with informing the public of events happening at the library. Member Langlois will get flowers to give Karen as a thank you for all her efforts.
- The Friends will be asked to send out an e-mail blast to their members announcing the new launch. Director Tatarka will contact Dawn Egan to ask if she would also send out an e-mail blast to various groups in Town.
- The Minecraft program had 50 participants, an increase over the last session. Again, Karen Bennett was very helpful with running the program.
- One of the library computers recently died. It needs to be replaced. Member Langlois moved to authorize Director Tatarka to purchase two refurbished computers to cost no

more than \$500. Member Ross seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The funds will be taken out of the WPL Board's funds.

#### Director's Report

- February saw 37 outside groups using the library. The gate count was 3,964 which was 2% lower than last February. The reduction was partially blamed on the weather.
- The recent library card drive resulted in 70 registrations and renewals. Again it has pointed out the need to increase our broadband to facilitate registration.
- The Raspberry Pi project is due to be launched March 17. This is the first project utilizing the high school students and it is hoped it will generate more interest in the library. The cost of each microcomputer is approximately \$70. The high school students will be making cases for the microcomputers with their 3-D printer. The microcomputers are about the size of a deck of cards.
- The library is looking for ways to increase volunteerism at the library. Specifically, students are looking for community service hours.
- The sale of the three card catalogues netted \$ 1,425. This money will be coming back to the library.
- The Minecraft program has emphasized the need for a stronger broadband to handle all the people who were on-line. Don Saltzman, who is on the board of Cablevision, is going to be contacted to see if he can help.
- Director Tatarka attended a summit on e-books last Friday in Hartford. She will be reporting on the findings at our next board meeting.
- Matthew Harrison and Valada Yaneva will be performing at the library in the fall.

#### Old Business

- Director Tatarka presented several different types of coffee mugs. After discussion, it was decided to purchase the ceramic mugs. Member Langlois suggested that the members of the focus groups be given mugs to thank them for their help. Member Henderson moved to purchase 100 mugs. Member Langlois seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Treasurer Toner thanked Director Tatarka for her out-reach to the schools.
- The Odyssey of the Mind is beginning again. The program covers all age groups. Each group is given a task and they have to figure out how to solve it. The teams have been using the library for their practice sessions. Years ago, this was a big program and it is being well received again. Director Tatarka would like to have a reception at the library for the groups.

#### Friends

- Programs for March include: New Yorker Roundtable (which is currently underway), Lunch and Learn, Animal Embassy and an actor impersonating Benjamin Franklin.
- Gravity will be the movie of the month on March 19<sup>th</sup>. Next month will be 12 Years a Slave

#### Minutes

- Member Ross moved to accept the February minutes with a few typographical changes. Member Langlois seconded. Member Groves abstained. Motion passed with one

abstention.

#### Old Business

- Member Henderson asked about the status of additional library staff. Director Tatarka said Selectman Weinstein is waiting until actual renovation starts to address this issue. She feels we could get the funding without having to go before the BOF due to savings incurred through lower heating costs.
- Comment from the focus groups: the library staff is well liked and this should be promoted for public consumption.

#### New business

- None

Member Ross moved to adjourn. Member Langlois seconded. Motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Hunt  
Secretary