

**WINTHROP PUBLIC LIBRARY & MUSEUM
MINUTES FOR LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING**

Date: March 18, 1999

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Hyde Room, Winthrop Public Library

Present: David Redgrave, Chair

Edward Hazlett

Steve Dalton

Phil Halloran

Phyllis Greene

Marjorie Hill-Devine, director

Cynthia J. Edson, Asst. Dir. (secretary pro tem)

The meeting was called to order at 7:55 amid bill signing and thanks to Ed Hazlett for arranging with the town accountant that this will be the last individual bill signing. In future all bills will be listed on the cover sheet and signed by the director with the trustees only needing to do the one sheet on top of the pack.

The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted with a spelling correction: Sheryl Inza.

Old Business: Plaster: The Director reported receipt of over \$6,000 from the town insurance policy for the repair of the third floor ceiling(s) which will only be done when the exterior slate has been repaired above this area. Discussion ensued about having in hand a firm quote from reliable source for the floor of town meeting. A letter shall be written to the town accountant asking that the funds be carried into the next fiscal year, earmarked for the plaster work to be done after the roof.

Budget: The securing of the roof estimate will be done before the town meeting date(s). Other budgeted salary items will be reviewed before that time in the personnel and town manager's committees and the relevant salaries here so noted.

Building: Ms. Edson reported that the fire provisions are complete save for testing in a drill situation. The heater for the elevator is still on order and no progress has been made on checking out the boiler alarm/water level problems though a visit is promised, through Community Development..

Personnel: Having received only two resumes to her liking, the Director reported she will advertised the administrative assistant position in the Globe before making a selection. It will be posted at 10.45 an hour for 19 hours with semi-flexible time Thursday and Friday.

The chair and director will do the necessary letters involving the management positions to the committee studying same and the personnel committee which has had the study of area assistant director salaries since December.

New Business: With regard to coming elections Ms. Greene will stand again for trustee but Mr. Halloran will not as he is cutting back his business and volunteer commitments. Some discussion ensued about the board making recommendations to the Selectmen for appointment. After 53 years of town service, Hazlett questioned whether or not a smaller board would be viable was a possibility as it would allow for a lesser quorum of only three. It was noted that with only 10 or more write in which qualified for the ballot someone might become a trustee.

For the **CELEBRATE/RENOVATE** Committee it was reported the Grand Gala will be June 29th from 6-9 with buffet and beverages. The March 29 meeting of the committee will work on details. The library will close early that day for set up.

Pam Corrado is organizing a book sale for fund raising and re-organizing the Friends.

April 22nd author Richard Merullo(Revere Beach Blvd)will speak.

A time capsule and craft program are being planned for children.

Link McKie has offered a supplement (12 pp?) for the celebration in the Sun/Transcript.

MOTION: It was moved and seconded that patrons be limited to 25 pp. on the PC printers unless permission is given by the on duty floor supervisor to exceed that amount for special projects. This was felt necessary due to the current high costs of toner cartridges which we are using rather rapidly.

The question of the use of filters in the children's department drew discussion after Redgrave shared a complaint he had received from a parent. Dalton said he wanted them all filtered and other memory seemed to be it had been agreed to filter only one station for parents who wished their children's resources curtailed.

Edson spoke in favor the American Library Association (ALA)policy of open information resources for both children and adults and Hill-Devine, as a parent, added that she did not want anyone else establishing anywhere else what was good for her children to see or hear.

Dalton continued that he did not wish the ALA to" tread on the feet of parents".

Any action to revisit the matter was postponed for the next meeting.

Sharing some historic research(a Frost Bite) Edson presented a copy of "Language, Thought and Reality" from the historic Winthrop authors glass case and with it, "Breaking the Maya Code"(1992)by Michael Coe. She noted that the latter reflects in more than a dozen pages on the translation work done by Benjamin Lee Whorf who was born in Winthrop and became a linguistic scholar in spite of having an engineering degree and employment with an insurance company.

She also noted that the Library of Congress has begun a project to help small facilities put their archive materials into MARC record format and that Mrs. Hinkley's inventories for this will be very helpful as they are done in great detail and include the necessary measurements so that things need not be handled again.

As tomorrow is St. Joseph's day she also made mention of Garibaldi's visit to Winthrop in the middle of the last century. Two biographies of him are in the current display case.

The date of the next meeting was set to be Thursday April 8.

In another note: Ms. Greene reported the death of former custodian Jack McCarthy. It was voted for her to send a sympathy card to his widow in Maine on behalf of the library and board.

Note: April 7 is library legislative day.

March 22 is the meeting with Brent Powell, our liaison for the town budget: 8 p.m.