

Board of Library Trustees Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2000

Present:

David Redgrave, Chair
Stephen Dalton, Trustee
John Meehan, Trustee
Donald Ford, Trustee
Marjorie Hill-Devine, Director
Anne Gutting, Asst. Dir/Reference Librarian

Meeting called to order by David Redgrave at 7:30 p.m.

Discussion ensued regarding Trustee Meehan's letter. Trustee Dalton moved to include it in the minutes with hope that the content would be discussed at future date. Trustee Meehan seconds the motion. So voted per Chair Redgrave to include the letter into the minutes.

Chair Redgrave proposes to accept the minutes. Trustee's agree. Minutes accepted.

Chair Redgrave noted that Trustee Meehan should be prepared to discuss the contents of his letter at the next meeting. Trustee Meehan suggests that the Director be ready to explain the other side of the letter at the next meeting. Director Hill-Devine objects and states that it is a waste of time. She feels she has said everything that needs to be said and has emailed back and forth. Chair Redgrave says emails aren't part of the ongoing record.

Director Hill-Devine reports that the new administrative assistant is excellent and she was given the opportunity to attend the meeting if she could. Trustee Ford said that he feels that it isn't necessary for the new admin. asst. to be at the meetings due to the fact that the former admin. asst. left an unfavorable impression by her comments and remarks being made on items brought up. The tape recorder has made the administrative assistants' attendance unnecessary.

Chair Redgrave asks if anything else on the Director's report needs to be discussed. The answer is no and he thanks her.

Old Business

Director Hill-Devine says that with each meeting of the contractors she got a better idea of what was needed and also wanted. She states she is very much in favor of the proposal by Ideal Electric, but in fairness to the other two contractors that maybe the board should have them re-quote the work using Ideal Electric's proposal as a spec sheet.

Discussion ensued. Trustee Dalton reminded the Board of the need for UV filters in the Museum.

Director Hill-Devine says that she only has one question left, should the plaster be taken down before the electrical work is done. Chair Redgrave says no unless it is all coming down. Putting new sheet rock over the old is cheaper. Director Hill-Devine will call Pasquale Martinello for advice and that she talked to the Building Inspector regarding plaster board and it needs to be 1/2". Trustee Dalton wants to know if new sheet rock is put over the old are the existing moldings going to have to be replaced. Chair Redgrave says he doesn't think any moldings are where the work needs to be done.

Trustee Ford suggest to retype Ideal Electric's proposal and ask the other 2 contractors if they would like to use it for a spec to requote on the work needed.

Trustee Dalton wants to know if Ideal Electric has to reinstall the recess lighting if new blue board is put up. Director Hill-Devine spoke to Ideal about this and he is anticipating the 1/2" blue board.

Trustee Meehan states that if he were Ideal Electric he would be very upset if the library used his proposal as a spec to get quotes from other contractors and he thinks it is unethical.

Trustee Dalton suggests that Bob Ianella from Ideal Electric be asked if its is ok to use his proposal as a format to use for re-quotes from the other 2 contractors and that he would be paid for his time and effort if he likes. All agreed and directed Ms. Hill-Devine to proceed in this manner.

Override PR

There was discussion about library priorities and the upcoming override. Director Hill-Devine asked for ideas and suggestions on how to publicize the library's portion of the override. She reviewed background and details of departmental request forms one from the previous failed override and the current requests. She reminded Board members that some time was spent prioritizing the library's "wish list" of numerous needs for the previous override. Trustee Dalton questioned whether the Board should be spending valuable time and energy on a "lost cause", saying that if the Town presents the 2nd override in the same manner as the first one was, it will fail again. Discussion ensued. Trustee Meehan thinks that an overall PR plan of action should be in place at all times, ready to gear up for initiatives and opportunities such as this override. He reiterated his opinion that the Board should maintain several active sub-committees. Trustee Dalton asked him to chair a PR sub-committee. Trustee Meehan declined, but will present a "PR plan of Action" next month.

New Business

Upcoming event dates were discussed. The "2nd Polar Express Pajama Party" was set for November 22nd and tentative dates of December 5th and 7th for the holiday open house.

Other - SD

Trustee Dalton told Trustee Meehan he is concerned about his not mentioning the full policy of the library on WCAT regarding filters. Trustee Dalton suggests the impression that Trustee Meehan left with the people on a recent WCAT program was that the library may be banning books or having a book burning. Trustee Dalton stated that that is not the policy of the library and asked Trustee Meehan if he knew the full policy. Trustee Meehan replied no and said that he was only giving his opinion. Trustee Dalton said that his opinion was a misrepresentation of the policy of the library because the policy was not explained on WCAT. Internet computers in the children's area are filtered and in the adult area they are not. Trustee Dalton went on to say that the board did not vote on filtering all computers in the library and listening to the WCAT program was confusing as to the policy of the library. Chair Redgrave commented with the fact that the board agreed to the policy that is in effect now but that it may not work forever. Trustee Meehan said that he had asked the library for all policies and did not ever get them so he pleads ignorance. Director Hill-Devine said she included a copy of the policy with pile of stuff she gave him some time ago. Chair Redgrave said that he thought he had saw him with a copy of the computer policy at one of the meetings. Trustee Meehan stated that normally he would be against filtering of computers.

Director Hill-Devine brought up an issue of an overdue \$80.00 inter-library loan from UMASS at Amherst. She requested that legal action be taken due to the fact that UMASS has shut off NOBLE until this is either returned or paid. She asked the board for permission to send the police by his residence. Chair Redgrave said absolutely. Trustee Dalton told Director Hill-Devine to check the state law regarding a matter like this.

Trustee Dalton mentioned a workshop for library trustees. The form must be mailed by 10/11/00. (Left it with Director Hill-Devine.)

Next Meeting

Chair Redgrave suggests a tentative date of 10/19/00 for the next meeting.

Motion to Adjourn

Chair Redgrave motioned to adjourn. Seconded by mutual consent. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Transcribed from tape by Barbara Clarke