

EAST HADDAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

February 08, 2018

6:30 pm at the EHFPL Branch

TRUSTEES PRESENT: Bill Barney , Joanne Rocznik, Dawn Barlow, Janine Broe, Juliana Tryon Ranaudo, Andrea Pascal* , Jane Chisholm*, John Bielot*

*arrived at 7:15pm due to a conflicting meeting with the Reading Room Association

TRUSTEES ABSENT: Vicki Riley

ALSO PRESENT: Michael Gilroy

The meeting was called to order at 6:31pm. Minutes from January 11, 2018 meeting were approved as written.

Director's Report:

There was conversation and concern regarding the staffing vacancies. While Amanda may be able to return to work shortly, the open Assistant Director position places significant burden on the Director and the library system. Without an Assistant Director, certain tasks may be delayed or put aside. There is concern that this leaves a gap in grant writing, which is of utmost importance for issues such as ADA Compliance. There are potential grants available that would ensure cost savings for the town, while improving our library system.

Committee Reports:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

There is a meeting on February 12th with the First Selectman to discuss the budget. Michael will attend with Bill Barney.

A National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Grant was accepted at the last town meeting on January 31st. This grant in the amount of \$4,710 will provide for installing shelving for the historical room at the Rathbun Free Memorial Library.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE:

The committee met on February 5th and discussed the education/outreach campaign to educate the community about the vital role our library plays in our community. We are currently running a "we love our libraries" campaign. Townspeople have the opportunity to purchase "hearts" at the library and local businesses. All proceeds benefit the library.

The committee is finalizing plans for a heart-centric event for Heart Health Month. A transplant recipient and a physician will be speaking to the community. The event is tentatively scheduled for February 27th.

The group is working on an event for Women's History Month in March. We will be co-sponsoring a science fair in April with the group "Together we Rise – Building Bridges for Justice" and will have a booth at the Taste of East Haddam.

Bill Barney suggested asking local businesses to post their "Staff Reading Selections" with a nod to the library.

"Together we Rise – Building Bridges for Justice" has offered to raise money for LGBTQ books. Michael will get a quote.

There was discussion about using a slogan, and possibly a logo, for the remainder of the year to highlight the importance of our library system: "*Heart of the Community.*"

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE:

The committee reminded previous members to complete their Board Effectiveness surveys. The committee's next meeting will be moved up to March 7th.

Unfinished Business:

The building transfer of the EHFPL branch was discussed in an emergency meeting of the Reading Room Association on February 8th. Additional information should be available soon.

New Business:

Bill motioned to have the chair (Dawn) draft a letter to request that the Assistant Director position be filled as soon as possible. Janine seconded the motion.

Board members are encouraged to attend any possible upcoming town meetings.

The Ad-Hoc committee will be transitioned to a permanent "Planning Committee". This committee will be charged with working on the One-Year plan, which includes development of a 5-year framework. After the upcoming February 26th meeting, the board will actively invite additional participation from Harvey Thomas (Finance Board), Rob Smith (Selectman), Friends of the Library and the community.

Joanne moved to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 7:38pm.

Our next meeting will be March 8, 2018 at the EHFPL Branch.