

**Monroe County Library System
Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Pittsford Community Library
Minutes
April 24, 2017**

Trustees Present: Brandt, D'Aurizio, Knapp, Shelly, Stockman, Thompson, Wolf

Trustees Excused: Guttmacher, Lovenheim

Staff and Guests: Pittsford Community Library Trustee, Jessica Izzo; Monroe County Law Department Liaison, Don Crumb; Staff members Davis, Gilbert, Harrison, Reeves, Rossman, Snow, Uttaro, Boldt

Call to Order

Mr. Wolf called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m., and welcomed trustees and guests.

Public Comments

There were no members of the public present who wished to address the board at this time.

Pittsford Community Library Report

Ms. Uttaro introduced Rhonda Rossman, Director of Pittsford Community Library, who welcomed everyone, gave a brief summary of recent developments of interest to trustees, and responded to questions. She added that the library had been open to the public on Saturdays during the summer for the first time last year, and visits averaged over 300 each week.

Action Items

Meeting Minutes

A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. Thompson AND SECONDED BY Ms. Stockman to approve the minutes of the March 20, 2017 meetings as revised (Documents Book). THE MOTION PASSED with six in favor and one abstention (Ms. D'Aurizio).

Claims

Ms. Harrison called attention to the Claims dated March 27 and 29; and April 7 and 10, 2017 included with the packet (Documents Book). Ms. Harrison reviewed highlights, and responded to questions, noting that the Permacard entry was the vendor providing the new early childhood library cards. Ms. Uttaro noted that they were proving to be very popular. Following brief discussion, A MOTION WAS MADE BY Ms. D'Aurizio AND SECONDED BY Dr. Knapp to approve the Claims as presented. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Reports

MCLS Liaison to RPL Board

Mr. Wolf reported that the RPL Board had approved a professional services agreement with Wicked Squid Studios to develop and provide an eight-week audio production workshop series for the Central Library's imagineYou digital media lab.

Rochester Regional Library Council

Dr. Knapp reported that the Library of the Year contest voting was underway, with awards to be presented at the RRLC Annual Meeting at Casa Larga Vineyards on June 1. He further reported that in light of changes to relevant laws, RRLC will designate an Audit Committee that is separate and distinct from its Finance Committee.

Friends and Foundation of Rochester Public Library

Mr. Davis reported that the 61st year of Books Sandwiched-In continues tomorrow, featuring a review of

The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World, by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu. He noted that average attendance at these programs has been in the 50 – 70 range, adding that live streaming on Facebook has doubled attendance. He announced that FFRPL currently has messages on WXXI radio featuring a Books Sandwiched-In challenge opportunity that is included in the BSI speaker introductions: the FFRPL Trustees and Executive Director have agreed to match funds contributed by donors who include “BSI” in the memo section of their checks. He reported that to date, \$1,400 has been raised from this initiative.

Mr. Davis invited everyone to an April 27 visit by Richard Cerasani, author of ***Love Letters from Mount Rushmore: The Story of a Marriage, a Monument, and a Moment in History***. He explained that the author, who grew up in Rochester, had discovered an old trunk with correspondence between his parents written while his father worked on the carving of Mount Rushmore. Mr. Davis added that a donor reception would follow the presentation. Mr. Davis also invited everyone to the Sokol High School Literary Awards scheduled for May 4 in Kate Gleason Auditorium, noting that one of this year’s winners was a Pittsford Sutherland High School student. Mr. Davis updated trustees on plans for the Woman Suffrage Centennial commemoration activities, noting that more information was posted on the FFRPL website, including sponsorship opportunities for portions of the exhibit to be mounted in Harold Hacker Hall, scheduled to open on June 2. He passed around buttons, “Because of Women Like Her” featuring Susan B. Anthony. Mr. Brandt commended Ms. Ridarsky and Ms. Finn of the Local History & Genealogy Division for their excellent presentation at the Suffrage Centennial kick-off meeting held recently at Oak Hill Country Club. Mr. Davis reported that proceeds to date for the Annual Campaign totaled approximately \$215,000.

Director’s Report

In response to a question from Dr. Knapp, Ms. Snow confirmed that some member libraries chose not to submit information for compilation of the annual budget kits for a variety of reasons. Ms. Gilbert noted that one factor impacting participation by Fairport in 2017 is significantly different budget scheduling from other member libraries. Ms. Uttaro called attention to the ACT Rochester Report Card included with the packet and responded to questions (Documents Book). She briefly reviewed results, noting that Monroe County’s metrics were ahead of New York State’s as a whole in the categories tracked. Ms. Uttaro also called attention to the VIP Partnership Program statistics for the period July 1, 2016 – February 28, 2017, showing the venues that were visited using the VIP Passes by patrons throughout MCLS (Documents Book). Ms. Uttaro and Ms. Snow responded to questions; Ms. Snow announced that Susan B. Anthony House had recently confirmed the decision to re-join the program. Ms. Uttaro reported that the final New York State Budget included a \$10 million increase in construction funding from the Governor’s proposal, and a restoration to flat funding for general public library aid (an increase from the Governor’s proposed cut). She expressed thanks to all who had advocated for public library funding with state legislators, noting that she had led a local contingent that participated in the March 1 Library Day in Albany. She added that reports indicated a significant state-wide increase in direct constituent contacts with legislators over last year. Ms. Uttaro reported that the MCLS System Services and Operations Committee was updating the MCLS Document of Understanding, the contract between member libraries and MCLS. She explained that based on discussions with member library directors, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to include a new section in the Document of Understanding, entitled System Expectations and Responsibilities; and a small team will work on developing an online document that includes policies not conducive to inclusion in the agreement. She added that this online document would be accessible for use by staff across the system.

Central Library

Dr. Reeves called attention to her written report and offered to respond to any questions (Documents Book). She reported that the new Teen Central space was open, and that the teens were becoming increasingly aware of its new location; two weeks ago, visits averaged approximately 90 teens daily. She added that the new “tween space” to be called Middle Ground was under development. Dr. Reeves further reported that

media development classes have begun, and Raising A Reader work was going well. Dr. Knapp commended Mr. Hylton, Ms. DiMatteo, and Ms. Williams for their assistance rendered to two teens as described in the Director’s Report.

Ms. Snow called attention to her written report and responded to questions from trustees regarding the Outreach Services Department (Documents Book). Mr. Wolf suggested consideration of including patrons who have expressed their special appreciation for the Outreach Department’s services in publicity materials for the library, noting the touching story of the “self-proclaimed mayor of Ferncliff Gardens” related in the Director’s Report. There was discussion of the strong personal connections made by staff who work with home-bound patrons, as well as the need for securing individuals’ permission in advance of including them in promotional materials. Mr. Brandt suggested initiating a “patron of the month” program and exploring the potential of awarding such patrons with a certificate; he added that a “patron of the year” might then be selected for special recognition. He offered to draft a proposal on behalf of the board to initiate such a program. Ms. Uttaro suggested that this initiative could also be explored by a new MCLS Advocacy Team, agreeing that there are many powerful examples of the significance of library services in people’s lives from the Outreach Department. Ms. Harrison added that current New York State formula funding is inadequate to support current levels of work, and briefly explained additional sources of funding that support this department, including FFRPL.

Ms. Snow announced that the ribbon-cutting for Teen Central was scheduled for May 24 at 1 p.m. with tours of the new Arts and Literature space to follow. She added that the Arts & Literature space would be featured during the Suffrage Centennial exhibit beginning on June 2. She explained that the Central Library was an official “First Friday” venue for June, with the opening reception scheduled for 6 – 9 p.m. Ms. Snow added that New Yorkers for Better Libraries were hosting a fundraiser at The Strong on the same evening; due to the close proximity of both venues, she hoped that many people would attend both events.

MCLS Services

Ms. Snow reported that usage of the mobile computer labs was significantly increasing, reminding trustees that the source of supporting funds was the LSTA Workforce Development Grant. She added that based on the strong usage, a second lab would be purchased. Ms. Snow announced that tickets were still available for “MCLS Night at the Ballpark” on June 23. She reminded everyone that a block of tickets had been reserved at the group rate of \$7 each, and this date is also “Star Wars Night” featuring character appearances from the 501st Legion’s Garrison Excelsior, and a Star Wars-themed fireworks display. Anyone interested in tickets for this event should contact her or the MCLS office; an email message with additional details has also been sent.

Town Libraries

Ms. Gilbert called attention to her written report included in the Director’s Report, and offered to respond to any questions (Documents Book). She encouraged everyone to consider attending the Gates Public Library’s wine tasting fundraiser on April 29 to support purchasing new materials for the programming space and preschool partnership that are not eligible for grant funding.

Other Business

Mr. Wolf invited everyone to stay for a tour of the Pittsford Community Library led by Ms. Rossman.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Uttaro, Secretary