



## **Cheshire Public Library Advisory Board**

**Cheshire Public Library  
104 Main Street  
Cheshire, CT 06410**

### Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: January 24, 2011

#### **I. Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cheshire Public Library Advisory Board was called to order by Craig Wilson at 7:00 p.m. in the Evelyn Moss Room of the library.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Board members and attendees recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **Roll Call**

##### **In attendance:**

Craig Wilson, Vice Chair  
Judy Knott, Corresponding Secretary  
Kathy Nankin, Treasurer  
Dalena DeSena  
Joy Hostage  
Ramona Burkey, Library Director

Andy Falvey, Town Council Liaison

##### **Absent:**

Carol DiPietro, Chair  
Marilyn Bartoli

#### **II. December 20, 2010 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION was made by Joy Hostage to accept the minutes, SECONDED by Kathy Nankin. The minutes were unanimously approved as presented.

#### **III. Treasurer's Report**

Kathy Nankin reported:

- The account balance as of 1/24/11 is \$1,452.50.

#### IV. **Reports of Committees**

##### 1. School-Library Partnership

Craig Wilson relayed the following report from Sue Hartley:

- January 2011 - Less activity due to inclement weather and 2 holidays. Regularly scheduled programs have done well, especially Family Place, averaging more than 35 people.
- February 2011 - Upcoming activities: Valentine Craft program (2/5); Dodd FEA (Future Educators of America) storytime, craft and refreshments (2/10). During school vacation week: *Swing and Sway* storytime (2/21); *Sleeping Bag Cinema* (2/22); Energy Science workshops (2/23); Spring Valley Puppet Theater presents *Three Wishes* and *Wolf in Sheep's Clothing*; *Astronomy for Everyone* program (2/24); and *Learn to Draw* workshop (2/25).

##### 2. Funding Resources (Mr. Wilson)

No report.

##### 3. Marketing Plan: (Mr. Wilson)

No report. Still in development.

#### V. **Communications**

None.

#### VI. **Report of the Chair** – Mr. Wilson

No report.

#### VII. **Report of the Library Director** – Ramona Burkey

See attached report.

Mrs. Burkey distributed the town's Conflict of Interest Ordinance to Board members. This document is distributed annually by the Town to all employees and members of town boards and commissions.

**Technology:** Use of e-resources (downloadable books, audio books and videos) has increased. January 3<sup>rd</sup> sessions of "Technology Petting Zoo" had 46 attendees, most of whom were interested in resources for eReaders. Prototype of new website, developed by FrediB Design, should be available this week. The new website will use WordPress; it will be easier for patrons to navigate and easier for staff to edit and update. The new website will debut this spring.

**Programs and Services:** Our loans were down approximately 5% in December, compared to Dec. 2009, due to poor weather and holiday closures. The Library will be open on Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day. The Cheshire Cats Classics Book Club continues to be well-attended. December's title was Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and January's pick was Pearl S. Buck's *The Good Earth*. On Feb. 23, the group will discuss Leo Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*.

Successful January programs included "Mind and Medicine," the Sunday Showcase concert "America's Music from Ragtime to Swing." As always, our storytimes for young children and, in particular, our programs for teens continue to be extremely popular. Our teen programs include Teen Book Board; Anime Club; Dr. Who Club, and Drop-In Games.

Upcoming events: Staff member Mary Dattilo and her husband Joe will discuss their newly-published book *Time's Edge* on 1/27 at 7pm [NB: Due to inclement weather, this program has been rescheduled to March 31]. Another staff member, Susan Staneslow Olesen, recently published a novel, *Best Intentions*, available in Kindle format from Amazon.com. On Feb. 6, Paul Bisaccia will present "Great American Piano" as part of our Sunday Showcase series. Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> we will hold a book talk and signing of *The Italian Farmer's Table*, a cookbook (and much more) by Matthew Scialabba and Melissa Pellegrino. February children's programs are listed in the School-Library Partnership report.

The Library is seeing more people come in to get tax forms since the IRS no longer mails paper forms to households.

**Personnel:** The arbitration panel ruled on the bargaining unit contract covering 7/1/09-6/30/12.

**Budget:** Mrs. Burkey submitted her budget request, including a request for partial restoration of page and clerk personnel hours and a request for restoration of funding in the book budget. As part of her Public Property request submitted to the Public Works department, Mrs. Burkey asked for funding for an overhang to be built over the rear steps of the library, which would greatly increase safety and eliminate the ongoing drainage/freezing problem. Mr. Wilson also emphasized the importance of this request due to the public safety factor. Mrs. Burkey also included a request to replace a section of rusted single-pane windows in the Children's Room.

**Buildings and Grounds:** Mrs. Burkey plans to meet with Peter Wells of Tuthill and Wells Architects, who designed the drawings submitted for our Category 2 grant application, to make some changes to allow for better patron supervision and service, including significant gains in usable space for the Teen area. Snow and ice have been a significant problem this winter, especially with nowhere to put the plowed snow. Visibility is diminished, as is the quantity of usable parking spaces.

**IX. Unfinished Business**

None

**X. New Business**

Joy Hostage reported/shared:

- Attended today's State Library Board meeting in Hartford, where she met the new President of the ACLB (Association of CT Library Boards), Betsy McIlvaine of Brookfield. The Board held a discussion about the recent issues involving the Enfield Public Library showing a series of movies. The Enfield Town Manager directed that one of the movies, "Sicko" by Michael Moore, be removed from the series.
- The ACLB is offering a workshop about "Long Term Fund Development" on March 28, 2011 from 1-4pm at the Woodbury Public Library. No charge. Mrs. Burkey has registered for this workshop.
- Commented on the good press coverage the Library activities are receiving in the Cheshire Herald of late.
- Expressed concern about the lack of holiday decorations at the Library. After discussion, board members suggested that volunteer groups (garden clubs, scouts, etc.) might be interested in providing season decorations, following certain parameters, since the Library's budget and staffing cannot accommodate it.
- In the 1/3/11 New Yorker Magazine, she read that the Vatican Library has reopened after a total renovation. Many treasures were found. They have thus far digitalized about one-third of their records.

**X. Adjournment**

MOTION to adjourn was made by Joy Hostage and SECONDED by Kathy Nankin. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Cheshire Public Library Advisory Board will be held on Monday, February 28, 2011, 7:00 p.m., in the Evelyn Moss Room of the Cheshire Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kirby,  
Recording Secretary