



Cheshire Public Library Advisory Board

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

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: February 28, 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
Ramona Burkey, Library Director

Absent:

Carol DiPietro, Chair
Marilyn Bartoli
Joy Hostage
Andy Falvey, Town Council Liaison

II. January 24, 2011 Meeting Minutes

MOTION was made by Kathy Nankin to accept the minutes, SECONDED by Judy Knott. 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

Judy Knott relayed the following report from Sue Hartley:

- February 2011: Kim Larkin's Valentine Craft program (2/5) had over 60 children and 40 adults attend; 3rd grade Cub Scout den toured on 2/7; Bully Proof workshop with Jamie Arute (Premier Martial Arts) had 25 participants; Dodd FEA (Future Educators of America) story time, craft and refreshments with 20 children (2/10).
- During February school vacation week: Megan held a *Swing and Sway* story time for ages 3+ on 2/21 (program was featured in the *Cheshire Herald*); 50 patrons enjoyed the Sleeping Bag Cinema presentation of *The Lion King* (2/22); Eric Nelson presented two Energy Science workshops for 34 children total (2/23); Spring Valley Puppet Theater presented *Three Wishes* and *Wolf in Sheep's Clothing* for over 80 attendees; and Kim Larkin's *Learn to Draw-Castles, Wizards and Dragons* workshop (2/25).
- The regular story times, Mother Goose, Family Place, Pajama Story Time, and After School Story Times were all well attended, especially considering the many weather situations.
- March 2011: St. Patrick's Day Craft Program (3/12); Magician Ed Popielarczyk presents a magic show and balloon artistry on March 19th. Sue Hartley will visit Highland School on 3/1 for a Family Read Aloud Night.

2. Funding Resources (Mr. Wilson) No report.

3. Marketing Plan: (Mr. Wilson) Mrs. Burkey is developing a draft of ideas to include in the Marketing Plan. She will forward those ideas to Mr. Wilson for review.

V. **Communications**

Mrs. Burkey received a letter from Dick Miller of the Rotary Club, thanking the Library for their birthday celebration books in honor of Rotary Club members. The Rotary Club continues to support the Library with significant financial donations.

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

No report.

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

See attached report.

Technology: Implementation of new website, developed by FrediB Design, is expected this spring. Funding for this project was provided using Connecticard funds.

Programs and Services: Despite poor weather conditions and closures due to ice and snow, January 2011 circulation was up by 1% over January 2010. Very active February vacation week of programs for school-aged children and their families. Upcoming events: March 14 at 7:00pm: Home Energy Basics workshop, where attendees can learn about and schedule a Home Energy Audit. March is an extremely busy month for programming, with many book talks and signings, films and concerts for adults, as well as the usual array of children's and teen programs. We are bringing back "Dog Tales," at which young readers read to certified therapy dogs. Bluegrass artist Phil Rosenthal will perform as part of our Sunday Showcase series on March 20. We will present "*Genealogy: Searching Historic Newspapers Online*" on March 29.

The library has registered for a table at the April 30 Home, Garden and Business Expo, which is presented each year by the Cheshire Chamber of Commerce; any library board members are welcome to join us at our booth.

Personnel: Library staff will recognize several coworkers with more than 20 years of service at a dinner at the Library on Friday, 3/11. The bargaining unit contract will be signed on Tuesday, March 1. The annual Connecticut Library Association conference will be held in Stamford on May 2 and 3. The library board has a budget that may allow one or more board members to attend; please contact Ramona Burkey by Friday, March 11 if you wish to register.

Budget: Governor Malloy's proposed budget includes the complete elimination of the Connecticard program, and a devastating 60% cut to the Connecticard budget. The Connecticard program provides the delivery system for interlibrary loans and also returns books which are dropped off at libraries statewide to the library which owns each book. Last year, Cheshire residents borrowed nearly 29,000 items from other Connecticut libraries, and out of town patrons borrowed nearly 82,000 items from Cheshire's library. The elimination of Connecticard would result in the Cheshire Public Library incurring mailing expenses to return books to other libraries and also place huge pressures on our book budget to purchase books that are no longer available through inter-library loan. The Connecticard funding provides library services to patrons who live out of town. Each library receives a reimbursement from the state for items loaned to non-Cheshire residents. Our Connecticard reimbursement would drop by more than \$15,000, effectively halting our ability to fund elements of the popular Summer Reading Program for children, or to purchase computer hardware and software. Connecticut libraries have regionalized and consolidated services to be cost effective for more than three decades. Elimination of these programs would place a heavy burden on local taxpayers during these tough economic times.

Mrs. Burkey does not have the date of the Library budget workshops with the Town Council yet, but will notify Board members as soon as it is scheduled.

Buildings and Grounds: Mrs. Burkey met with architect Peter Wells, who is working on our reconfiguration project. The project has two step phases: Phase I are items that can be done before grant funds are received; Phase II includes items which cannot be addressed until the grant funding for this project is received from the state. The Library only had one minor leak, due to an ice dam, during the recent bad winter weather. Public Works staff responded immediately and corrected the situation.

IX. Unfinished Business

None

X. New Business

- A letter is being sent from Craig Wilson, on behalf of the Library Board, to Benjamin Barnes, Secretary of the CT State Bond Commission, and to our legislators, requesting that the Cheshire Public Library grant be added to the next agenda for consideration by the CT State Bond Commission. In November 2009, the CT State Library Board approved a \$50,000 Category II Construction grant for the Cheshire Public Library, in order to reconfigure areas of the library to accommodate the needs of the 21st century library user. To date, the Bond Commission has not addressed our project's funding. The cost for the entire project is \$150,000. Local funding is already in place for \$100,000 (\$50,000 from the gift account; \$50,000 from the capital budget).
- MOTION: If the topic of Brian McDonald's book *In the Middle of the Night* is brought to the attention of Library Board members by the press, all requests from the press should be referred to the Library Board Chair (Carol DiPietro), in her absence the Vice Chair (Craig Wilson), or the Library Director (Ramona Burkey). MOTION was made by Craig Wilson, SECONDED by Kathy Nankin. The motion was approved unanimously.

X. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn was made by Kathy Nankin and SECONDED by Judy Knott. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. The next regular meeting of the Cheshire Public Library Advisory Board will be held on Monday, March 21, 2011, 7:00 p.m., in the Evelyn Moss Room of the Cheshire Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Kirby,
Recording Secretary