

Library Board of Trustees
Somers Public Library
February 20, 2024

Members present: Catherine Embriano, Lisa Gladysz, Mike Gruber, John Kelleher, Jack Kertenis, Ann Levesque, Marybeth Marquardt, Andy Phillips, Bob Socha
Also present: Joanne Nichting, Library Director

Chairperson Andy Phillips called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

First Audience to Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from the January 22, 2024 meeting were presented and reviewed. Ms. Embriano moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Mr. Kertenis. Abstentions: Ms. Levesque, Ms. Marquardt, Mr. Socha. Minutes approved.

Correspondence: None

Treasurer's Report:

Ms. Nichting presented the Treasurer's report and reviewed individual transactions. Of note, sizable donations have been received in memory of Carolyn Palomba which will be used primarily in the Children's room - ~\$525 for a children's light table and the remaining ~\$4,500 for a painted mural. She also noted an expected reimbursement for a cash register fee which was erroneously charged to the account. The report will be filed for audit.

Financial Business:

The FY24 year to date financial report was presented by Ms. Nichting, noting again the misalignment of the timing of automated services expenses. The rest are in line with where they should be at this time of year. The report will be filed for audit.

Committee Reports: None

Old Business:

Library Speakers Consortium (LSC) Funding Request – Ms. Nichting described the service offered by the LSC for the benefit of the Board members who missed the last meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the cost, the benefits, potential patron usage, and subscription duration. Due to the size of the expense, with an unknown return on the investment, the Board decided to revisit the proposal in six months, after which time Ms. Nichting can hopefully get more usage statistics from other libraries or the LSC itself.

Vending Machine – Ms. Nichting presented a proposal from Gamelli Vending for a snack vending machine in the library lobby. Gamelli offers an optional commission to the library for a percentage of the sales. Discussion ensued. Mr. Socha moved to install the vending machine and include the commission in the pricing provided it went to the library. Ms. Embriano seconded. More discussion surrounding the commission ensued. Mr. Socha amended his motion to proceed

with the vending machine, but for Ms. Nichting to discuss the handling of the commission with the Town. Ms. Embriano seconded the amended motion. Motion approved by a vote of 8 in favor, with one vote against (Mr. Kertenis).

New Business:

Bowers Tournament – Mr. Socha moved to close the library on June 1st due to the Bowers Lacrosse Tournament. Mr. Kertenis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Teen Room Painting – As part of the Teen Room refresh, the room needs to be painted. Improvements to the Teen Room functionality are being funded by the grant received from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. The DPW indicated they can provide the paint, but not the labor. As the painting is maintenance and outside the scope of the grant, Ms. Nichting requested that the Board fund the painting labor. She presented two quotes from local companies, one of which was substantially higher than the other. Ms. Levesque made a motion to accept the quote from Alpi Painting Co. and pay for the labor. Mr. Gruber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Phillips posed a question to Ms. Marquardt and Ms. Nichting regarding the amount of endowment income the Board has available to spend this year, to ensure we stay within our policy. The amount will be provided at the next meeting.

Director's Report:

Ms. Nichting presented her Director's Report to the Board, which included general library information, program attendance, circulation, meeting space usage, and other updates on library happenings. The report was accepted as presented.

Second Audience to Citizens: None

The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM. The next meeting will be March 19, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Gladysz

MINUTES NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED AT A SUBSEQUENT MEETING