

Minutes Avon Free Public Library – November 18, 2014

Board of Directors

Regular Meeting called to order by Mary Suter at 7:30 p.m.

In attendance: Mary Suter – Past President, Vince LoPresti – Treasurer, Jennifer Shufro – Secretary, Glenn Grube – Library Director, Thirza Hyatt, Eric Gauvin, Fred Lin, Betsey Bougere (remotely via conference call), Anne Fitzgerald, Peter Anderson, Paula Schwartz and Sonia Dockett – Friends of the Avon Public Library representative.

Absent: Carin Salonia and Tom Iezzi (who has submitted his resignation).

Guests: Tina Panik, Reference & Adult Services Manager

Welcome to New Board Members

The Board officially welcomed both Vince LoPresti and Fred Lin to the Board of Directors. Vince will assume the position of Treasurer following Tom Iezzi's resignation.

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors as well as the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors, both held on October 21, 2014, were unanimously approved, after minor revisions recommended by Peter Anderson, Anne Fitzgerald and Thirza Hyatt were adopted.

I. Reports and New Business

❖ **Treasurer's Report:** Vince LoPresti presented the Library's fiscal report that he and Tom Iezzi had prepared, focusing on the income and expenses of the Library through October, 2014, including, amongst other items, gift income in the amount of \$10,392 and administrative expenses in the amount of \$3,444 for accountant fees and insurance policy renewals. The Board unanimously approved the fiscal report. At the month's end, the Library had \$254,408 in net assets.

❖ **Librarian's Report:** Glenn Grube presented the highlights for October 2014 to the Board, noting the following highlights: (i) The *Changing America* exhibit and program had its formal kick off with a lecture by Dr. Matt Warshauer on November 1st. The audience was very engaged and the event was well received. Glenn also noted that Matt Warshauer announced the exhibit on WNPR thereafter; (ii) An initial disbursement of e-commerce fines and fee payments via the Library's new catalog totaled over \$600, representing approximately 3 months of online fine payments, with a check disbursed to AFPL by the Library Connection; (iii) Jessica Palmer, the Library's Technology & Technical Services Librarian, was honored with selection as co-chair of the Library Connection's Bibliographic Services Committee; (iv) the Library hired four new Children's Specialists as weekend staff/substitutes; (v) A local blog, entitled "Out and About Mom," favorably reviewed the Library's Children's Room and its new art studio; (vi) At Carin Salonia's request, Glenn called to the Board's attention the new format for the Board meeting Agenda; and (vii) the Board agreed that, going forward, Board binders would be updated electronically (via the Library website) but that all new Board members would receive an AFPL Board of Directors binder in hard copy.

❖ **Friends of the Avon Public Library Report:** Presented by Sonia Dockett (subbing for Linda Jordano). Sonia introduced herself to the Library Board and

updated the Board on recent Friends' activities, including: (i) The Literary Luncheon at the Avon Golf Club was a huge success, with 78 patrons in attendance. The program raised approximately \$2,400 for the Friends, which was an unexpected bonus; (ii) The Friends are working with Hartford Stage to present a Shakespeare Workshop at the Library. The details of this program have yet to be finalized, but the Friends are working in conjunction with Teen Room staff to coordinate the events; and (iii) The Book Sale was a huge success, raising approximately \$10,000.

❖ Recap of Electronic Voting: Mary Suter presented a recap of the results of the electronic votes that the Board cast during the past month, as per last month's meeting. The Board unanimously approved the Library's Form 990 and unanimously voted onto the Board as new members both Vince LoPresti and Fred Lin.

❖ Gallery Presentation. Eric Gauvin prepared a power point presentation, which the Board reviewed, regarding possible revisions to the Library's art gallery, including ideas for more prominent signage and additional art work for the entrance of the Library. Additionally, Eric presented to the Board information he collected pertaining to a comparison between Avon's art gallery and neighboring towns' galleries, including the towns of Simsbury, Farmington, West Hartford and Canton, in an effort to brainstorm with the Board various ways to improve upon current gallery space.

II. Old Business.

❖ History Room Policy. Glenn reported that he had met with Terri Wilson and Pam Fahey from the Avon Historical Society to go over the draft History Room Policy. They softened some language related to the ownership of the History Room collection. After getting some answers from the Town's insurance agent regarding coverage for the collection, the AHS Board will likely vote on the draft policy at their January meeting. After it is approved by AHS, the AFPL Board will also be asked to endorse the revised policy.

❖ ACLB Conference. Seven members of the Board plus Glenn attended the ACLB conference in October. All found the conference educational and inspiring. Betsy suggested scheduling some time for the Board to have an unstructured discussion to explore how the Board's resources and priorities can best be directed in 2015 to support the strategic plan and Glenn's operational priorities. Mary pointed out that the sub-committee structure had been revised a number of years ago, and may need to be looked at again, and that should be part of the discussion. Paula felt that our social media strategy might need some adjustment, with an aim of providing more targeted messages to specific audiences.

III. Library Calendar:

1. Thursday, November 27th and Friday, November 28th – LIBRARY CLOSED for Thanksgiving Holiday
2. Monday, December 15th– Library Board October Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

IV. Adjournment:

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was thereafter adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m. by Past President, Mary Suter.