

Rutland Free Library Board of Trustees Minutes, November 18, 2015

Meeting called to order 5:15 PM

Mike Brochu presiding

Present: Rachel Alexander, Mike Brochu, Betsy Bloomer, Heather Cooper, Sherri Durgin-Campbell, Doris Farenkopf, Joan Gamble, Kay Jones, Jude Endrizal, Betsy Reddy, Cathy Reynolds, Liz DiMarco Weinmann, Abby Noland, Randal Smathers

Absent: Scott McCalla

Acceptance of Oct. minutes: Minutes were presented. Minor amendments made. Move/second Sherri Durgin-Campbell / Betsy Reddy. Passed.

Financials: Cathy presented the financials and explained why various line items do not match projections. Move/second Doris Farenkopf / Betsy Bloomer. Accepted.

New trustee vote: Anita Duch. Move/second Heather Cooper / Cathy Reynolds. Adopted.

Director & asst. director updates:

Abby Noland: Introduced how books can be challenged by the public; monthly statistics; new shelving & help desk.

Randal Smathers: Attended NELA conference; update on health; thanks for Board support with MLIS degree (thesis & degree to be finished by Dec. 1).

Committee reports

Executive:

Presented by Mike Brochu / Cathy Reynolds. Started discussions w/ city re. "triple net lease." Discussions w/ Rob McClellan (sp?); Charles Romeo; Mayor Louras; introduced new Board members to building ownership / repair concerns.

Personnel:

No report; meeting TBA (Heather Cooper presented.)

Finance:

Cathy Reynolds presented

Fox Fund / Bank of America report

Committee met with reps of Bank of America who provided a report outlining health of Nella Grimm Fox fund. Very good meeting, even if market not as strong as it has been.

Also met w/ Kevin Austin of Moors & Cabot; he provided report on that fund which provides cushion for budget shortfalls. Both groups will be meeting Finance Committee at end of fiscal year for updates.

Proposed 2016/17 budget

Presented 1.6% & 3.0% budget increase proposals; outlined budget process. Currently running deficit budget (roughly \$21,000). Proposal to ask for \$12,000 directly from taxpayers. Would require petition; city attorney would help write budget language. Discussion of possible grants vs. petition.

Motion: To take a ballot proposal to Rutland City voters for \$14,500 above the 1.6% Rutland City budget and corresponding increases to 3% for the other communities that support RFL by taxes. Betsy Reddy moved / Sherri Durgin-Campbell seconded. Motion passed on voice vote.

Motion to accept budget as presented, pending discussion on line items 5130 & 5450; Betsy Reddy moved Heather Cooper seconded.

Motion passed.

Development:

Betsy Reddy presented. Annual appeal letter to go out first week of December. Meeting to personalized letters scheduled for Nov. 30 at 3 PM. All are encouraged to attend. Annual appeal envelopes handed out to Board members.

Next Tables of Content meeting Thursday, Nov. 19 @ 8:30 AM.

Next Development Committee meeting. Weds. Dec. 9 @ 4 PM.

Building:

Sherri Durgin-Campbell presented. Committee met Nov. 9. Reviewed building needs; began prioritizing immediate (crumbling floor tiles), short term (renovated bathrooms) & long term (bond to address major repairs) needs.

Next meeting Dec. 14 @ 4 PM. Vermont Rural Development & Rutland City Board of Aldermen Rec. Committee members invited.

Policy & Planning:

Joan Gamble presented. Has not been a meeting this month. "Team of 5" continues to meet to formulate Strategic Plan from work started at retreat.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Congratulations to RFL-sponsored First Lego League teams (Heather Cooper).

Board members asked to consider taping "Speedway Shoots" PSAs at PEG-TV on behalf of the library. Sign-up sheet available.

Motion to Adjourn:

Moved / seconded: Betsy Reddy / Heather Cooper. Passed.

Meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM.

Next meeting December 16, 5:15 PM in the Fox Room.