

Library Assoc. of Ringwood Inc.

Board of Trustees Meeting June 25, 2018

Ringwood Public Library ("RPL")

APPROVED OPEN SESSION

ATTENDANCE: Heather Nemeth, Heather Manley Caldwell, Karen Marcus, Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom, Amanda Beth McCormick Gillman, Anne Siebecker, Elise Bedder, Director. Members of the public included Wendy Sandford, Laura Henderson, Gloria Carney. Ed Thomas arrived at 7:50.

Absent: Amy Boyle Geisel, Lisa Straubinger.

Call to Order and Statement of meeting notice: The meeting was called to order at 7:34PM by Vice President Heather Nemeth and she read the following statement: Adequate notice of this meeting was provided in the usual course to the Suburban Trends, Record, Herald News, WGHT, Channel 77, Borough Manager, and the RPL website. Notice was posted inside the library.

Minutes: Karen Marcus made a motion to accept the Open Session Minutes of May 21, 2018 and Heather Nemeth seconded. The motion passed. Heather Manley Caldwell made a motion to accept the Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2018 and Amanda Gillman seconded. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Heather Manley Caldwell reported that there had not been a budget meeting in the past month. The question was asked whether RPL makes all purchases on Amazon using Amazon Smile. The Director responded that with some purchases, that is not available, but generally, Smile is used.

Correspondence: The Director first said that there was no correspondence, but then verbally attacked Board member, Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom (SSR), who is chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, for the following 5-7 minutes over an email concerning the omission of an invitee on the Strategic

Planning Forum participants' list. In an email to the Director, SSR had questioned why the Syrian Orthodox Church had not been on the final list. The Director became agitated and said that the church address is in Wanaque. She continued and said that in SSR's email, she had used words about being a "mom and a Jew", which the Director said she found offensive. In addition, the Director said that SSR had been "grandstanding". SSR defended the email and the inclusion of the Syrian Orthodox Church to the invitation list, as the church borders Ringwood. The Director went on to say that the committee did not invite people from their own community. SSR replied that the Ramapoughs had been contacted. SSR suggested that she and the Director have a private conversation about this matter. The Director stated that the committee did not include a diverse group of Forum invitees. The Director continued and did not take SSR's suggestion to stop the charged discussion. Board member, Anne Siebecker, intervened and asked that the conversation be finished at another time and place. Finally, the Director agreed to stop but warned the Board, "The staff is disconnecting from you".

Committee Reports:

Strategic Planning: All is set for the upcoming event where four workshops will have participants going from station to station in 10 minute intervals. SSR asked that the staff have registration materials for library cards, Friends and Association membership information. Karen Marcus suggested that there be a public discussion of the finished strategic planning document during the December Association meeting. Creative Library Interiors: A new price list will be issued and the committee will meet. Then, the Director will order new

furniture. IPADs will go against the back wall. Electricians have been in to view the children's room.

Friends: The new AV system is in process. The DPW has been involved. The Director and some of her staff will be trained to work the new system.

PUBLIC HEARING: Karen Marcus made a motion to go into Public Session at 8:00 PM. Heather Manley Caldwell seconded and the motion passed. Laura Henderson related that due to the poor WiFi in the library, Optimum will reset Wifi routers. The routers are too old to work with current boosters. This is an ongoing problem. One suggestion was to have Pals Plus put new routers by the Circ Desk. Discussion ensued about the Forum and use of digital technology that is needed for Friday's event.

Wendy Sandford offered that she and the staff have the deepest concern for the Director as she encounters health issues.

Karen Marcus echoed those sentiments and wished the Director well. The Director did not accept the well wishes and stated twice, "Actions speak louder than words". The Director added, "That does not include, you, Karen" (Marcus), who was seated next to the Director.

Anne Siebecker made a motion to come out of public session at 8:20 and Ed Thomas seconded. The motion carried.

Director's Report: Elise Bedder produced annexed two pages for the Director's Report and a Staff Meeting Report. The Summer Reading Kickoff starts the week of June 25. There was a question about grant opportunities and the Director reported that she and her staff had just submitted a grant application on May 31 to Better World Books to become a repository for the Center for Family Resource materials. A board member asked

a question about a grant pending from the Passaic County Cultural and Heritage Commission (PCCHC). The question concerned what the grant was for, the time frames for the grant and the amount sought. The Director did not have answers for that question and did not elaborate. Board members were confused about the nature of the two grants (Better World Books and PCCHC) and SSR asked for clarification. The Director said, "Susan, I know it's difficult for you to follow two ideas at once". The Director said that she and the staff "had plans" for other grants, but did not disclose them. The Director displayed anger at Board members for bringing up this topic. In answer to a question from a Board member, the Director said that the 2017 taxes are finished and available online. The Director said that she was working on a 22 page census document.

Payment of Bills: None.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Executive Session: At 8:18 Anne Siebecker moved to come out of Open Session, Karen Marcus seconded and the motion passed. At 8:20 Karen Marcus moved to go into Executive Session. Anne Siebecker seconded and the motion carried. At 9:01 Heather Nemeth moved to come out of Executive Session and Heather Manley Caldwell seconded. The motion carried. At 9:03 Karen Marcus made a motion to go into Open Session and Susan Rakosi Rosenbloom seconded the motion passed. Amanda Gillman made a motion to verify the motions accepted in Executive Session. Heather Nemeth seconded and the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT: Heather Nemeth moved to adjourn at 9:04. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Ringwood Public Library Board of Trustees will be held on Monday, July 23, 2018 at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Marcus, Acting Secretary, June 25, 2018