

Cromwell Library Commission
Regular Meeting
Monday, September 12, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Arch Room

RECEIVED FOR FILING
9-13 2016 at 12:45 M.
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE
CROMWELL, CONN.

Jean Ahlgren
TOWN CLERK

Record of Votes and Minutes

Present: Chairman Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson
Absent: Library Director, Eileen Branciforte; Diane Mongold; Margaret Colella
Also Present: Lois Meltzer, Acting Library Director; Gerald Seagrave; Mayor Enzo Faienza; Anthony Salvatore, Town Manager

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by Chairman Marie Roberto.
2. Approve/Amend Agenda--*Barbara Grotheer moved to approve the September 12, 2016 agenda. Seconded by Martha Rennie. In favor: Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson.*
3. Approval of minutes of August 8, 2016--*Martha Rennie moved to approve the minutes of August 8, 2016. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Marie Roberto, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson. Abstained: Barbara Grotheer.*
4. Citizens' Comments--None.
5. Town Council Liaison Comments--Mayor Enzo Faienza and Town Manager Anthony Salvatore were present.

Mr. Salvatore commended Lois Meltzer, the Acting Library Director, for the phenomenal job she has done for the last five months.

Mr. Salvatore noted the following three items:

(1) Library Director, Eileen Branciforte will be retiring the end of September. The Library Director job announcement has been placed on the Town website and in the Sunday Hartford Courant (9/11/16). Lois Meltzer will contact CLC for placement on their website. Mr. Salvatore has spoken with Acting Library Director, Lois Meltzer extensively about staffing issues; i.e., being short-staffed, retirements coming up, etc. He noted the

need to get a new library director hired to handle the staffing issues, and his/hers ideas and thoughts on how to deal with issues of concern.

(2) Library Grant -- The Town Council wants to move forward with the grant. Within the next couple months, will be looking to put funding in place to hire an architect. Hopefully will be able to accomplish this by the first of the year. We have been awarded \$1 million in the grant. Will need to finance the additional \$2 million.

(3) Parking Lot Renovations -- To be done within the next week or two. May have to restrict hours or possibly shuttling from Pierson Park while these renovations are being done. In addition, the parking lot has to cure before it can be painted. Marie Roberto asked about moving the book drop so you can just drive up to it to drop off books. Mr. Salvatore will explore this issue. Marie Roberto also inquired about a storage shed for donated books. Previous storage shed was destroyed by heavy snow. The Friends of the Library need space to store the books for their book sales. These sales help the library with various funding projects. Mr. Salvatore will also look into that request.

Martha Rennie thanked both Mayor Faienza and Town Manager, Anthony Salvatore for all their efforts. She added the sooner we have a new library director on board then the staffing issues can be addressed. Martha Rennie added this position means a lot to our community.

Mayor Faienza noted would like to plan a special event for Eileen to thank her for her 30 years of service. The Commission members agreed and stated how much Eileen will be missed.

Marie Roberto thanked Mayor Enzo Faienza; Town Manager, Anthony Salvatore; and Finance Director, Marianne Sylvester for meeting with her to discuss the Library Commission's concerns. Marie also added we couldn't be here today without Lois Meltzer's efforts.

Mayor Faienza assured the Library Commission they are committed towards making the Cromwell Belden Library a wonderful community resource.

6. Reports

a. Chairman--Marie met with Celestia Simmons (part time library new hire) and found her to be very professional and good with the patrons.

b. Library Director -- *After a brief review Martha Rennie moved to accept the August 2016 Library Director's Report. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson.*

c. Library Finance Report -- *Barbara Grotheer moved to accept the August 2016 Library Director's Finance Report. Seconded by Kathy Newton. In favor: Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson.*

7. New Business--None.

8. Other--None.

9. Next Regular Meeting-- October 17, 2016.

10. Adjournment--*Martha Rennie moved to adjourn at 8:38 p.m. Seconded by Barbara Grotheer. In favor: Marie Roberto, Barbara Grotheer, Kathy Newton, Martha Rennie, Al Dickerson.*

Respectfully submitted,



Linda K. Sellew

Library Commission Clerk