

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 14, 2008**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Marjorie Clarke at 7:15 p.m. Present were Karen Berger, Patricia McGarry, Carol Merritt, Carol York, and Library Director Robert Simon. Representing the Friends was David Drumm.

MINUTES: The minutes of the regular meeting of April 9 were corrected under NEW DIRECTOR to read, "David Drumm said he would be on hand early that morning to..." but delete "open the Library and" On a motion by Carol Merritt and a second by Carol York, the minutes of April 9, 2008 were approved as amended.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: New Library Director Robert Simon presented his written report for April 2008, highlighting the presentation of *Unlaunched Voices*, a Walt Whitman performance featuring Stephen Collins under the sponsorship of the Maxwell Shepherd Memorial Foundation. Attendance totaled 90. Also noted was the Crossword Puzzle tournament sponsored by the Friends, which was organized by Alice Dutton and was attended by 32 people. Under Children's Services, Rob noted that plans for the summer reading program are well underway. This year's theme will be *Catch the Reading Bug* and promotional t-shirts are for sale in the Children's Room. To launch the program on June 25 will be a party featuring Alex the Jester. Rob noted that the staff did an excellent job keeping the library running smoothly during the transition between library directors. Rob met with Alden Parrington to discuss some changes for the library's webpage. He also mentioned that the new library card is being designed. The statistical report showed increases in circulation and cardholders compared to April 2007.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report shows a total of 90.6% of the budget spent or encumbered. There is a spending freeze for all Town of Canton departments. The \$6,079.31 remaining in the Publications account, however, will remain available for the purchase of books, magazines, etc. The report was approved on a motion by Karen Berger and a second by Carol Merritt.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: David Drumm reported on the Friends' crossword puzzle tournament and said that the newest Friends newsletter had been mailed. The Friends will begin accepting books for the September booksale on June 16. Co-chairs for this year's sale are Laura Hage and Carol Stevens. As usual, Friends will be sorting books on Tuesday evenings and Board members' help would be welcome.

OLD BUSINESS: Marjorie and Rob presented a summary of the two Stakeholders' meetings. The first meeting was held on April 24, with 15 in attendance. The second was held on May 8, with 10 in attendance. They also gave the Board members copies of their notes resulting from the meetings. The notes, which provided many suggestions for consideration and action, were discussed. The Board determined to form a committee to review suggestions and present recommendations to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS: Marjorie formally presented Robert Simon, the new Library Director, to the Board and expressed the Board's happiness with his acceptance of the position and his ease of transition. Rob expressed his happiness in being here. Pat McGarry relayed the positive comments regarding Rob from the library staff.

Rob noted the problem of patrons who do not have their cards with them at the time they check out. There have been some errors in checking out library materials resulting from several people, some of them living outside of Canton, having the same names. Rob suggested that we begin to ask people to present proof of identity, such as a driver's license, if they do not have their library cards with them. After discussion, the Board members suggested that staff should ask patrons for their addresses and/or telephone numbers to be sure we have the correct patron at check-out.

The Library has been named a recipient of gifts in memory of the late Francis C. Gerath of Canton.

ADJOURNMENT: On a motion by Pat McGarry, the meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia McGarry, Acting Secretary