



Tolland Public Library Foundation, Inc.
Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
Minutes – January 30, 2012

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order at 7:36 p.m. in the Tolland Public Library Program Room
2. Attendance (□ = present; T = present by telephone)
Linda Byam√ Kate Farrish√ Betty-Lou Griffin√ Agata Herasimowicz
Mary Jo Leahy√ Roger Leege Barbara Pettijohn√ Dani Titterton√ Eric Weiss√
Linda noted that the town has hired Lisa Ann Hancock as the new finance director, so she will replace Agata as an ex-officio member of the board.
3. Review/Approval of Minutes – January 9, 2012: Linda made a motion, seconded by Mary Jo, to approve the minutes of the Jan. 9, 2012 meeting. It passed unanimously.
4. Executive session to discuss a real estate negotiation. Linda made a motion, seconded by Kate, to go into executive session to discuss a real estate negotiation. It passed unanimously at 7:50 p.m.
5. Possible action involving a real estate negotiation: The board came out of executive session at 8:52 p.m. Kate proposed a resolution, designated as **2012-02**, that the Tolland Public Library Foundation board of directors recommends that the Tolland Town Council not enter into an Oil and Gas Lease with WPX Energy. It was seconded by Mary Jo and approved by Linda, Kate, Betty-Lou, Mary Jo, Dani and Eric.
6. Reports of Officers
 - A. **President:** Linda
 - No report
 - B. **Vice President:** Mary Jo
 - No report
 - C. **Treasurer:** Eric
 - Eric said the board should decide soon on whether to hire the same accountant to do its taxes this year.
 - He said new donations have arrived from John Halliday and Barbara and Ira Greenbaum.
 - He said he will be paying an invoice from Barbara Pettijohn of \$93.33 for books purchased as part of the Year of the Young Adult initiative. The board previously approved spending for the initiative.
 - D. **Secretary:** Kate
 - Tolland 300th Anniversary Committee Update: Kate reported that plans are underway to celebrate the town's 300th anniversary from May 12 through September 2015 with a Charter Day reception, gala, parade and other events. She recommended that a librarian join the planning/fundraising committee along with Kate and Eric and that the foundation consider funding Tolland 300th-themed programs in 2015. The committee will need a list of planned events by Dec. 31, 2013 for inclusion in the anniversary program, which will be published on May 12, 2014.
7. Committee Reports
 - A. **Library Director:**
 - Fundraising for library expansion: Barbara reported that she told Town Manager Steve Werbner that the Foundation board and the Friends of the Library support the idea of expanding the library into the



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vacant Hicks gym. Steve told her that \$15,000 to \$20,000 will be needed for an architectural plan and cost estimate and that he will propose that spending as part of his new capital budget. Barbara

- reported that state officials have told her grants for such a plan will not likely be available for a year and a half.
- AV Media Center operation: Barbara reported that the new media center in the Program Room is working well and that staff members have been trained on it. She said Foundation members could be trained on it in 15 minutes if they are interested. The owner's manual and a "cheat sheet" for its use are also available.
- Renewal of Ancestry.com \$1,625 - due May, 2012: Barbara reported that 1,100 searches were conducted using the database in July; 900 in August; 370 in September; 89 in October; 151 in November and 125 in December. She said she thought the drop in usage in October and November was due to storm power outages, construction at the library and a lack of parking that kept patrons away. Mary Jo asked that Barbara provide usage figures for January, February and March when the board meets April 9.

B. Eaton-Dimock-King Authors Series: Chair, Kate; Mary Jo

- Paul Catanese - 4/10 or 4/11. Kate reported that she is still working with Paul, a Bolton author who writes under the name P.W. Catanese, for a suitable date for him to speak at the library. Children's librarian Ginny Brousseau also suggested May 1 or 2 or May 9 or 10 as possible dates and recommends starting the event at 6:30 p.m. due to the age of Paul's middle school readers.

C. Public Awareness Committee: Chair, Betty-Lou; Kate

- QR code for TPLF envelopes, displays, posters, brochures, handouts: Kate suggested this should wait until the web site is updated and that it might be referred to the marketing committee as part of its plans to improve awareness of the Foundation.

D. Finance Committee: Eric, Linda

- No report

E. Marketing Committee: Dani, Mary Jo, Linda

- No report

F. Technology Committee: Roger (via phone until April), Linda

- No report

G. Year of the Young Adult Committee: Kate; Mary Jo, Dani, Ginny, Linda

- Barbara reported that library patrons are already signing up for the Book Voyager Series on The Hunger Games, which will be held on the following dates:
 - Feb 9th - The Hunger Games, 6-7 p.m.
 - March 8th - Catching Fire, 6-7 p.m.
 - March 22nd - Mockingjay, 6-7 p.m.
 - March 24th - Hunger Games Trivia Blast - 1 p.m.
- Heather Ricker Gilbert: Linda reported that the Foundation and library will host Heather, a college admissions coach, on Wednesday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in the Program Room. She will speak on "Getting Started on Your College Search." Barbara said the books Heather recommended have been ordered. Kate said she will be putting out a press release shortly.
- Betty-Lou suggested that bookplates be ordered to place in books the Foundation donated with its logo on them. Kate said she will ask graphic artist and Tolland native Justin Lappen for a cost estimate for the bookplates.



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- AWE After School Edge: Ginny has recommended the purchase of an AWE After School Edge computer and software for children aged 6 to 14 for the library. Barbara said Ginny has reported that

the unit purchased last year by the Foundation for younger children is heavily used and that the children's older siblings often want to use it.

- Betty-Lou, however, said she was not impressed with the educational value of the software when it was demonstrated for board members. If older children come in to the library, she said she would rather see them drawn to books than video games. She added that the software did not seem to meet the age criteria of appealing to young adults. Betty-Lou said she had told Ginny she would support her on other initiatives for young adults.
- Mary Jo said if the video games will attract students to the library, that is a positive step and they may then be drawn to books. Linda agreed that the software may appeal only to students who are aged 6 to 12 but that the unit will provide value to the library. Barbara, Linda and Kate all said they would defer to Ginny's expertise and professional opinion that it is a good purchase. Dani said some of the software titles have more educational value than others but that she favored the purchase.
- Linda made a resolution, designated as **2012-03**, that the Foundation spend \$3,451.90 on the After School Edge computer from AWE and the Smith system furniture cart. Mary Jo seconded it. Dani, Kate, Linda, Mary Jo and Eric voted for the resolution. Betty-Lou voted against it.
- Betty-Lou outlined the ideas Ginny had that she would support. These included ordering more copies of the high school summer reading books since there are fewer copies at the high school due to budget cuts. She also supports Ginny's idea for seeking out graphic novels that closely align with the Tolland school curriculum that provide an easier format for readers who are not proficient.
- Poetry Slam 4/27/12, 6:30 – 8:30: Kate reported that she has invited Tolland High School's English teachers to take part in the event, perhaps as a host and judges. She also suggested that library staff member Irene Pudelkiewicz, who suggested the idea of having a poetry slam, be asked to be a judge. Kate also said she is working on rules and recruiting high school students to help with the event. She suggested the small group of people planning the event should meet in March.

8. Items for review, discussion and action by the Board

- More permanent gift to honor former library director Barbara Butler: Betty-Lou said she asked Barbara Butler what type of books she likes, and Barbara said she likes the idea of a travel book collection, books with movie tie-ins and books on history, women's history and the Civil War. Betty-Lou said she and Barbara concluded that the travelogue books might be most popular.
- Organize event for presentation of AV Media Center in Phil's honor: Tabled
- Meet and Greet with Barbara Pettijohn: Tabled
- Elizabeth Eaton King "story" to be captured on website: Tabled

9. Announcements

- Our next regular meeting – April 9th, 2012, 7:00 Program room; Potential Guest Speaker – April Teveris, Estate Planning. Note earlier start time.

10. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:04 p.m.

Submitted by Kate Farrish