

Meeting of the Board of Trustees

Conant Public Library

April 8, 2013

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Present: Carlin, Vermeulen, Johnson, Brennan, Dwyer, Corvelo, Campbell

Public Forum: No one was present.

Approval of minutes: March 11, 2013 minutes were approved as amended.

Consent Agenda

Director's Report: Campbell presents the Director's Report. This report is available at the library.

Circulation: Campbell is not confident that the CW MARS circulation figures are accurate. The Sterling Library has worked very hard to try and obtain the most accurate figures possible and have been more persistent than most other member libraries. The figures used to calculate circulation have changed under the new system, so it is unclear whether the same figures are being compared from last year to this year by all libraries in the system. The library is showing a decrease in foot traffic, so circulation could be down slightly. The circulation reports will not improve until the whole system is fixed.

Facility: Lighting to be completed within the next 2 months.

- **Services:** The Friends have made more e-books available. Per the agreement with CW MARS, identical e-books are purchased to share with the other members of CW MARS. All story hours are now full. Campbell, along with the Assistant Director, decided the library will no longer be accepting additional volunteers due to the skill requirement for library work, and the resulting staff time involved in training and supervision.

Other: The draft by-law is substantively different from the previous bylaw. Campbell said it is improved from the previous year.

New Business

Review of FY 2014 Town Budget for Warrant: The finance committee recommended to fully fund the proposed library budget, but removed approximately \$5,000, which will be taken from the trust fund interest to defray benefit costs until a currently benefited position opens. More than half the library's operating expenses are materials and services for the public.

Report on CW MARS Evergreen Meeting Outcomes: Campbell reviewed the report on the March 29, 2013 Evergreen Meeting. CW MARS is going to hire a consultant to assess whether or not the underlying structure of Evergreen is stable. A number of users want CW MARS to also fund a consultant to examine the option of a different system, in the event the Evergreen system is determined not to be

stable. The Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners is not going to spend any more money on Evergreen.

Frequency of user meetings have increased to once a month; previously it was every two months Vermeulen would like consensus from the users on what the system must do to be acceptable. He is concerned about the lack of control and poor timelines. Campbell has voiced concerns on the closed listserv, but CW MARS does not see this, because CW MARS does not want members to voice their concerns on the open listserv. Vermeulen asked to be added to the CW MARS open listserv.

Campbell will contact Wei Jung-Chu, the Director of the Worcester Public Library, to discuss different options to resolve the problems. The priority is to fix Evergreen, but still want to explore other options in case the situation gets worse. Vermeulen wants Campbell to work with a coalition of libraries to come to an agreement to wait and see the changes and/or to actively pursue other options, i.e. different system or legal options, depending on what the coalition wants to do.

A new contract with CW MARS is to be signed July 1. The first step may be to have the member libraries renegotiate their contract with CW MARS. Corvelo will prepare sample contract language that Campbell can post as suggestions to other members.

Review of Town Governance Warrant (if available by meeting): The warrant is not available. Dwyer will speak with the town administrator about the delay.

Next meeting: Since the next meeting is scheduled for the same night as this year's town meeting, agreed to meet Monday, May 6, 2013.

Trustee Candidates for Election: Carlin will be on the ballot and Campbell will publicize that Corvelo is going to be a write-in candidate.

Campbell rewrote the Director's goals to include previously agreed changes and included them in this month's meeting packet.

Adjournment: 8:25 pm