

Hazard Library Annual Meeting 2015

May 11, 2015

Minutes:

Present: Board President Rachel Karn, Board Treasurer Amy Emerson, Library Director Lisa Semenza, Library Assistant Linda Bush, Board Members: Kris Minster, Denise Littlejohn, Ron Buxenbaum, and Kathy Button, Investment Advisor Whitney Barnes, Sally Otis, Kathy Kirk, and Aedan DiSanto

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 pm. The power was out at the Friends Meeting House, but the sun shone, so we could see!

The Minutes from the 2014 Annual Meeting were presented, and amended to show that Linda Bush had attended. Kathy Button moved to accept the Minutes as amended, Ron Buxenbaum seconded the motion, and the Minutes were approved unanimously.

Announcements:

Rachel Karn will step down as Library Board President as she ends her term. Kris Minster has also finished her term as Board member. Betsy Donald was approved as a new Trustee at our last meeting.

Whitney Barnes attended as the guest speaker to give an overview of the investments that he has overseen on behalf of Hazard Library. He stressed the “big picture” goals of investing for the benefit of the library, and explained his investment strategy as one where he invests in great companies with deep value, keeping in mind that we want to gain on the upside of the market while still protecting ourselves against downturns. At present, about 45% of the portfolio is in cash, so there has not yet been much growth in the investment (about 1.19%), but that will likely change as Mr. Barnes moves more money into appropriate holdings. The total investment is \$62,409.46. Currently, we have holdings in Apple, Caterpillar, Coach, Emerson, Hewlett Packard, King Digital, Microsoft, Whole Foods, and others. The long term goal is to “grow” our money so that it serves as an endowment for the Library. As we look ahead, it is important to define our goals so that we know whether or not we have a need for more cash, or want to increase our investments. Sally Otis moved to accept Whitney’s report, Denise Littlejohn seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

Amy Emerson gave the Treasurer’s Report. Noted were the gifts from Senator Nozzolio (\$10,000) which will be used for the maintenance and improvement of the Library

building, the large response to the annual appeal, the approval by voters of the SCCS District of a \$6,000 increase in library funds, and the various grants (Rosen, Metcalf, FLCAG). The Post Office rent will stay unchanged but the eRate Refund will be phased out this year. In terms of expenses, Amy clarified that the Operations and Maintenance line item included the work and repairs done in response to the basement flooding. Amy expressed the goal of trying to build a solid foundation of financial support such that the Library does not have to rely on fundraising to cover its basic annual budget. Kathy Button moved to accept her report, Kris Minster seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

Lisa Semenza, our Library Director, detailed a very busy year of library programs for all ages. Community members were invited and encouraged to participate in using the library to engage in learning activities and enjoy social time through Story Hour, Book Club, the Community Read, the Summer Reading Program, and Science on the Porch. Throughout the year, Lisa and Linda coordinated special events such as “Take Your Child to the Library Day,” “Spring Fling,” and a Veterans’ Day program. Lisa collaborated with the school by attending Early Literacy Committee meetings, participating in “I Love to Read” month by having students sign up for library cards, having every grade level tour the library (Aurora Library, but shared leadership from Linda and Lisa), giving a book to each Kindergarten student (Rocket Loves to Read), and kicking off the Summer Reading Program by presenting at an end-of-school-year assembly. In 2014, the door count increased by over 800 visitors! There are now also a number of “Little Free Libraries” throughout the school district for people to “take a book, read a book, and leave a book.” Lisa reported on the receipt of the Rosen Grant which will provide money to stock the “Little Free Libraries,” provide a book for each school child to take home at the end of the school year, and provide a salary for a coordinator to oversee and publicize this program.

Lisa also mentioned and thanked the many volunteers who help keep the library running: those who work the desk, Coordinate the Book Sale (Scott Gross), sort book sale books (Carolyn Littlejohn and Connie Rejman), help with the book sale, the Board members, the Local History Coordinator (Margaret Redmond), Ken Knight and Ron Buxenbaum who do so much of the building maintenance, and our “Webmaster” Suzanne O’Hara.

Kris Minster moved to accept the Librarian’s report, Sally Otis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously accepted.

Sally Otis asked about the maintenance and improvements of the buildings and grounds. Ron Buxenbaum has been the “point person” and has helped with and/or overseen the improvements. He and Ken Knight repaired the soffits and columns. Ron got estimates for basement improvements, made sure the ditch was cleaned out to allow for more water runoff (and less backing up), and got a bigger sump pump as well as more sorting tables for the basement. He also oversaw the installation of a hot water tank and we now have hot water in the building for the first time!

Rachel Karn delivered the final remarks; her final task as Board President. She spoke of how much she has enjoyed being a part of Hazard Library through her roles as volunteer, Board secretary, Summer Reading volunteer, Science on the Porch volunteer, and as the Board President. She claims the hot water in the library as the legacy of her one year term, a term that has been a wonderful experience, easier and more pleasant than anticipated. Although no longer on the Board, Rachel will continue to be involved in library activities and calls Hazard Library her “happy place.” She introduced Denise Littlejohn as the new Library Board President.

Rachel Karn moved to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Denise Littlejohn and unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 pm. (We enjoyed refreshments in the lantern-lit back room as the power was still off!)

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathleen Button
Acting Secretary