

**TOWN OF CANTON, CONNECTICUT
CANTON PUBLIC LIBRARY
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13, 2013
DRAFT MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:15 p.m. with Chair Walter Gillette presiding. Trustees present: Marjorie Clarke, Michael Leonard, Richard Matos, Patricia McGarry, and David Owen. Also present: Library Director Robert Simon and Friends of the Library President Sue-Ann Uccello. Trustees absent: Bonita Hansen

PUBLIC FORUM: No one from the public was present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon a MOTION by Ms McGarry and a SECOND by Mr. Matos, the minutes of the regular meeting of February 13, 2013 were approved unanimously as presented. Upon a MOTION by Mr. Owen and a SECOND by Mr. Leonard, the minutes of the special meeting of March 4, 2013 were approved unanimously as presented.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT: The Library Director's report for February 2013 was emailed to the trustees earlier. Mr. Simon reviewed the programs, services, statistics, and other library news of last month. One program highlight was the first of a three-part musical concert series held on February 3: the Rosewood Chamber Ensemble played music from Europe and America to an audience of 40. This is the first year that, in addition to the regularly-held student art show in March, there was a one-month show of art created by children in the nursery schools and day care centers of Canton. This was a great success and will likely become an annual event, also. Quotes have been obtained for work on the upholstered furniture in the Children's Room: one is for replacing all furniture, one is for re-upholstering all furniture, and a third is for a combination of replacements and reupholstering. These quotes have been turned over to the Friends of the Library for consideration, as the Friends will be paying the bill. Circulation Aide Anna Boisvert organized a program called "Blind Date with a Book," which presented patrons with a novel and amusing way to expand their reading lists. Upcoming programs include the Friends' Spring Book Sale and the ninth annual Crossword Puzzle Tournament sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The Library Director's report for February will be placed on file for future reference.

COMMUNICATIONS: Trustee Nita Hansen could not attend the meeting but asked the Director to tell the Board that there will be a kick-off meeting to celebrate the re-starting of the Connecticut Center for the Book. Date: Friday, April 19, from 2:00 to 3:30 pm at the State Capitol. All are invited.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS: The operating budget and Gift Fund reports for February 2013 were reviewed by the Director. The issue of the overexpenditure of one operating budget account to 136% (questioned last month) was resolved: a \$650.00 invoice was paid but the corresponding open purchase order had not been closed. Upon a MOTION by Mr. Owen and a SECOND by Ms. McGarry, the budget reports for February were approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: (a) Friends of the Canton Public Library: President Sue-Ann Uccello reported that the Spring Book Sale date has been set for April 13. The Friends are accepting book donations from the community but have not advertised broadly for new books for this sale, which is smaller than the fall sale. The Friends will pick up books if a donor has books that they are not able to get to the library themselves. The ninth annual Crossword Puzzle Tournament is scheduled for April 27. The Friends have not yet met to discuss the quotes for replacement or repair of the upholstered furniture in the Children's Room. They will soon be launching a membership drive and will announce a date for the dedication of the bench in memory of Sue Bahre. It will be in the spring. There is an ongoing attempt to bring back the "Coffee And..." program

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OLD BUSINESS: Upon a MOTION by Ms. McGarry and a SECOND by Mr. Matos, the Board voted unanimously to proceed out of order to *Agenda Item OLD BUSINESS (b)*. The trustees warmly welcomed new Board member Nancy Donoghue at 7:50 p.m. Nancy, a former library staff member, was just sworn in at tonight's Selectmen's meeting. There was cheering but no speech. Ms. Donoghue will be a library trustee through June 2017.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (continued): (b) Long Range Plan Review Committee 2009-2013: The committee did not meet this month. **(c) 100th Anniversary Committee:** The committee did not meet this month.

OLD BUSINESS (continued): (a) Budget Request FY 2013-2014: The Director reviewed the recent Selectmen's actions regarding our budget request and the teen services librarian. The trustees agreed that it was disappointing to have to give up Sunday openings and some of the materials budget to afford the librarian position. The Director reported that Brian Wilson, Director of the Parks and Recreation Department, came to him and offered to give up a part-time employee position in his department, one who is supposed to work with teens, so that the library could use that money toward the teen librarian's salary. Mr. Simon gratefully declined, suggesting instead that the new teen librarian and the staffer in Parks and Recreation could work together. The Board was amazed and impressed by Mr. Wilson's generosity. Ms. Donoghue noted that, when Sunday openings were threatened at the West Hartford library, there was such an outcry that it did not happen. **(c) Staff Updates:** Adam Delaura will start at the library on Tuesday, March 19, in Sarah McCusker's position: Head of Technical Services. He comes extremely highly recommended. Adam's last positions were Head of the Computer Lab at the Bristol Public Library and Cataloger at the Avon Public Library.

NEW BUSINESS: (a) State Funding for Libraries: The governor has proposed cuts in the State Library budget. The biggest likely hit for our library would be a significant reduction in funding for the ConnectiCard program. Under ConnectiCard, each public library agrees to loan materials to the patrons of other Connecticut public libraries. This service is a great convenience for patrons and provides a net financial gain for Canton. **(b) Chart: Library Circulation Per Capita:** The Director distributed an interesting article from the Wall Street Journal (January 5, 2013) called "Don't Burn Your Books - Print is Here to Stay", which says among other things that a 2012 survey revealed that just 16% of Americans have actually purchased an e-book. He also distributed a chart from the Connecticut Economic Resource Center showing a comparison of per capita library circulation in 9 nearby towns. Canton was second highest (after Simsbury only) and ahead of Avon, Farmington, Glastonbury, and other Hartford area communities. Ours is a great library and the statistics show it. The Board asked that the chart be sent to the selectmen.

OTHER BUSINESS: (a) Culled Books: Ms. Uccello asked about culled books. If they are not suitable for the books sale, the library might be able to sell them to ProQuo. ProQuo will take and pay a small amount for used books. The Director and Ms. Uccello will see if this can be worked out. **(b) Food for Fines Month:** This was a great success! The library collected 878 items for a very grateful Canton Food Bank. **(c) Painting:** The library will be painted in the April. This will, unfortunately, cause considerable disruption. The Children's Room may need to be closed for a few days for safety considerations. There will inevitably be some disruption of service.

ADJOURNMENT: Upon a MOTION by Ms. McGarry, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Marjorie Clarke
Secretary