

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eric Suess, Library Director gave his report.

- February's circulation was extremely strong, surpassing January even with fewer days of service. It was our second highest monthly circulation. March will likely be slightly lower, but we will continue to be among the top libraries in the system.
- The kitchen area which was being used to store donations has been entirely sorted. Those materials which are appropriate for library use have been set aside and are being processed for addition to our collection. The members of the board physically viewed the newly arranged kitchen.
- There have been several volunteers actively involved in the library. They range from students to seniors and have taken part in a variety of activities including sorting, processing and shelf-reading. We have also worked with Emily Dubey at the Richardson Center to advertise volunteer opportunities.
- The Library has purchased copyright clearance to show movies from most major studios. This allows us to advertise to teens and all others of upcoming movie events. The initial license is good for 15 months. The first movie event "Yours Mine and Ours" was well attended and enjoyed.
- More and more materials are arriving. At this point we are approaching 40,000 items, with many more on the way.
- The Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records discussed under Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Friends of the Library

Eric Suess comments that he had planned to meet with Linda Mayer from the Attorney's Office to arrange an organizational meeting; she changed the date, but wanted to discuss some things before having a meeting. Her impression was to start a Friends of the Library Group by inviting a limited group of people that we are familiar with for the first meeting, avoiding any conflict. Current members of the Library Board can also serve as a Friend of the Library. Eric will be approaching those on the Library Board to serve in this group. The goal will be to have a collective group of people we know will take the Library in a positive direction. Gathering a huge host of people may not achieve that easily. We expect to gather patrons of the library, members of the Library Board, reputable professionals in different areas and those with fundraising experience. There will be an initial meeting prior to accepting candidates to serve as Friends of the Library and an

invitation for those on the Library Board to be in attendance. No date for that meeting is set.

b. Volunteers

No report given

c. Permanent Library, including “Wish List”

Eric Suess comments on the “Wish List” comparing the items below to cutting edge, state-of-the-art libraries of the future.

- A larger and separate youth area, preferable on the lower floor of an expanded area, including a performance space, costumes, puppets and a children’s program room.
- A state-of-the-art computer training facility.
- A board room.
- A state-of-the-art meeting/program room, with digital recording capabilities and a built-in sound system as well as a mounted digital projection system.
- Quiet study rooms.
- A public address system.
- Artwork, including that which recognizes major contributors to the library.
- A studio space with a stop-motion animation capability and sound tracking so patrons can create and store their own stories for web access.
- A significantly improved area for processing of materials.

Discussion:

Eric Suess shares information from *The Future of the Library*, spotlighting the Denver Library where they have their children’s story-times recorded and posted on the internet. He believes with little cost the library could have an inexpensive digital sound recorder now and mimic that program. That equipment could also be used for other programs and guest visitors that can be later broadcasted for the community. Another library in Charlotte, North Carolina has a studio that allows children to create stories with props and costumes and save it to a computer that can be emailed. He shared other creative ideas like a “Story Jar” and “The Golden Ball” that glows every time a story is created. The library here in Farmington, displays very nice artwork, in comparison, we can display artwork that reflects or recognizes major contributors to the Library, even local artists can benefit. He concludes by noting the vision of Commerce Township is to implement new and unique ideas that will create a high-tech library.

Carol Keeler suggests we could broadcast the library’s programs in the local hospitals bridging the two communities.

Barbara Garbutt agrees they could broadcast library programs at the same cable channel currently used by the Township.

Judy Sternberg shares her research of notable libraries. The DaVinci Institute had a report of future libraries, stating some the Ten New Trends for libraries which include: a high- tech communication system, advanced search technology, transition to a verbal society, product based economy, cultural center and more. Global information is growing exponentially and libraries are the center. She adds other recommendations for creative spaces in the library such as: band practice rooms, pod casting stations, blogger stations, art studios, recording studios, video studios, imagination rooms, and theater-drama practice rooms.

She also comments on two new concepts from an article in *Libraries of the Future*. One called the “Idea Store”, libraries in a mall-like setting. A London library launched the idea in 1999 averaging 1000 visits per day, compared to 250 visits per day in a traditional library setting. The second idea is the “Discovery Concept” enabling a library to be a very physical community presence, a center of culture, a viable recreational and community service. A place to meet friends, obtain the latest collection of DVDs, CDs, videos, ect.

Eric Suess informs the Board of a website address, www.npr.org where they can obtain archived information from *Talk of the Nation*.

d. Official Recognition of Formation

Friday March 10th, Eric Suess met with Tom Zoner, Township Supervisor, Linda Mayer from the Attorney’s Office, Representative David Law and his Aide, Brent Visner, discussing efforts to work toward obtaining the State’s Official Recognition of the Library. It was determined that a legislative approach as a first course would be most appropriate, followed by, or concurrent with a legal effort.

The Board discusses the details of being officially recognized.

e. Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records

Eric Suess reports that the Township Board did not approve the Confidentiality of Library Records at the Township Board Meeting on 3/14/06. The item was tabled until the Township Attorney reviews the laws surrounding the issue.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Pursuit of Fines

Regular Library Board Meeting

Eric Suess comments on the Pursuit of Fines, stating the two possibilities; a collection agency and/or an ordinance. The Westland Library has only the ordinance. The Wayne Library has an ordinance and a collection agency. A number of libraries use a company called, Unique Management, because they interface well with library computer systems. They pursue fines from lost books and materials, not items that are just overdue. They make several contacts to obtain the material or fine, yet they have the ability to send the fines to a collection agency or a credit reporting agency. The libraries currently using Unique Management are very happy with the service, noting they deal respectfully with people to retrieve the fines or the materials. They send a closure letter to thank the patron for returning the material. That letter can be used as a positive reflection to settle the debt with credit agencies. Using just a credit agency can be less personal and effective. An ordinance could be hap-hazarded and not uniformly applied.

Jason Pernick is in favor of an ordinance in cases of outright theft.

Ann Marie Kelley also comments that an ordinance would clearly define theft.

TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

None

OTHER MATTERS

Betsy LaFond would like to see some sort of public relation articles in the *Milford Times*, noting that the publication targets the northwest area of Commerce.

Eric Suess comments that the library will have a "New and Notable" book shelf.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Sternberg, supported by Kelley, to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY