

FINAL  
Prosser Public Library  
Library Board of Directors Meeting  
September 13, 2011

**Attendance:** Nancy Kamins (*Chairperson*), Roberta LaMonaca (*Library Director*), Beatrice Llewellyn, Joan Politis, Paula Walek, Penny Pearson (*Friends of the Library Representative*)

Quorum present? Yes, 4 of 6

N. Kamins called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**MOTION to accept the minutes of the June 14, 2011 meeting;** seconded and approved.

*Chairperson's Report* – N. Kamins asked that an agenda item concerning the flood be added as New Business.

*Public Statements* – There were no public statements.

*Director's Report*

**Strategic Plan Progress** – The strategic plan is well under way. The consultant, Dick Waters, has hosted a number of focus groups, and the turnout has been great. Chris Siloac has attended all of these sessions and typed up notes. In addition, we've collected around 300 surveys from both libraries, Footnotes, and online. There will be additional focus groups in the Town Council Chambers tomorrow (Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>), including a luncheon with stakeholders: C.J. Hauss from Literacy Volunteers of Greater Hartford; Dr. Ellen Stoltz, Chief Academic Officer of Bloomfield Schools; David Baram, State Representative; and Glenn Winfree of the Bloomfield Education Foundation are scheduled to attend.

**Site Evaluation Progress with Architects** – The architects presented four preliminary building plans. Plans one and two have the Children's Department on the ground floor, so those plans are clearly not an option. Plans three and four have only meeting space on the lower level, but with the recent flood, it looks like the best option is to have nothing but parking on the lower level.

A discussion ensued about the best building option considering the flooding problem. Although moving the building might not be the most popular option, J. Politis said we need to ask ourselves the question: "Do we love the library building, or do we love the library?" The focus group comments make it clear that the library staff is seen as a particular strength, and that the current building is viewed as something of a weakness.

**Summer Reading Program** – The library had another successful summer reading program. Ten t-shirts, the top prize, were awarded to adults, while 125 of the 450 children who signed up completed the program. Sarah Morgan helped manage and coordinate this year's program using Library Insight, an online registration and tracking system.

**Funding from BEF** – Bloomfield Education Foundation has agreed to help fund a teen space at Prosser. We presented them with three levels of funding, and they decided to award us \$2500 toward computers. We recently purchased, at a large discount, three sets of oak shelving w/end panels from Borders for use

in the new teen area. The new teen area will hopefully be unveiled in October, to coincide with teen reading week.

#### *Old Business*

**New Sign for Wintonbury Library** – Thom Hooper (Planning & Zoning) is working with a company on getting a new sign for Wintonbury. No price or time table is currently available.

**Small Stools for Browsing** – As requested, we ordered three small stools for browsing the lower shelves. One each has been placed near Fiction, Non-Fiction, and the DVD section.

#### *New Business*

**Trustee Leadership Conference** – R. LaMonaca asked members of the board if they would be interested in attending a one-day Trustee Leadership Conference in Hartford on Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The conference is aimed at preparing trustees for the future. R. LaMonaca and B. Llewellyn will likely attend.

**Steve Rushin Program** – The library is presenting a program tonight (Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>) at Thomas Hooker Brewery featuring author Steve Rushin. The program has received a huge promotional push, including top billing in the Hartford Courant. Considering the location and subject matter, this event should attract a different type of crowd than our usual programs.

#### *Report from the Friends of the Library*

**New Brochure** – The Friends published a new brochure in July and are hoping to attract new members.

**Book Sale** – The book sale is currently scheduled for Oct. 13-15, but the Friends are holding off on publicity until more information is known concerning flood damage and the availability of the community room.

#### *Additional New Business*

**Update on Recent Flood** – According to Facilities Manager Emile Rouleau, ServePro is coming on September 14<sup>th</sup> to clean hard floors, and the following day to do the carpeting. This Friday we hope to have a timeline and an update on the status of the carpeting. One reason the downstairs is closed is to keep people out of the workmen's way. The workmen will be repairing sheet rock and radiators, cleaning and sanitizing carpets, and, eventually, returning the books.

A discussion ensued as to what can be done about future flooding. Even if steps are taken to protect the library, the water will go somewhere else, affecting a neighbor. R. LaMonaca and Thom Hooper recently met with Robert Schwartz about acquiring the property next door to the library. Mr. Schwartz is not interested in selling the property to the town, but he shared a report from a study he commissioned on the brook. The report concluded that the overpass on Mountain Avenue is too low, which prevents the water from passing through. Much of the problem with the brook and the highway concerns the state, so the Town of Bloomfield cannot execute a major change.

In response to a question by the board as to what they can do to help, R. LaMonaca stressed that E. Rouleau is on top of everything. After the movers return the books, the library may conduct a shelf-reading party to ensure books are back in order.

**Review of Architect's Plans** – The board reviewed the architects' plans and discussed the pros and cons of the different proposals. One advantage of a new building in a different location is that the library could remain open during construction.

**MOTION to use Prosser funds for R. LaMonaca and B. Llewellyn to attend the Trustee Leadership Conference;** seconded and passed.

**MOTION to adjourn meeting at 5:15;** seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Siloac,  
Senior Staff Assistant