

Manchester Library Board
Meeting Minutes for September 11, 2017

Meeting called to order by Miriam Byroade at 6:30pm

Members Present: Grace Cedrone, Miriam Byroade, Karl Hasel, David Austin, Norman DeLaura II and new Board Member Joyce Hood

Members Absent: Mary Fischer, Sally Nyhan and Jessica Scorso

Also Present: Doug McDonough, Norma Nevers, Dede Moore and Jeff Capone

Secretary: Grace Cedrone

Welcome to the Board Joyce Hood!

In a review of investments by Jeff Capone of Fiduciary Investment Advisors, it was reported that overall, the Jarvis, Whiton, and Taggart Funds are doing very well yielding a recent 3% return. No changes were recommended by Mr. Capone.

Adoption of Minutes: Minutes from the June 12, 2017 Meeting were accepted with no corrections

Public Comment: None

Librarians Report: Doug and Norma reported that youth Summer Reading Programs had good participation this year. Overall there was a 29% increased enrollment of children over last summer and they read over 28,000 books. The Teen Summer Reading Program had a significant increase in the number of books read over last year's Teen program. Adult participation in the summer program dropped over last year.

One Children's Librarian, Leila, left us, so "Miss Ashley" from Reference has joined the Children's Room.

A couple of fabulous programs were run this summer. "Lunch with a Llama" included a storytime with an actual llama and "Star Lab," a mobile Planetarium at Whiton, had over 200 participants as part of the eclipse program. But by far the largest participation was the "Solar Eclipse Extravaganza". 1,500 people lined up at the Cheney library building for solar eclipse glasses from NASA and although the glasses did run out, everyone left with something to view the eclipse with, including homemade alternatives using a sheet of white paper for pinhole viewing. As far as is known, that was the largest one-time attendance for anything at the Mary Cheney building.

Also Doug reported the loans of DVDs, as happened years ago in other towns, is now declining significantly at our library, and even though more books were loaned this summer, the grand total of all things loaned is down a small percentage. Nationally, the sale of eBooks continues its downward trend and interestingly enough, the same trend is happening in Europe. Doug distributed some information about ebooks and about how our library usage levels compare with other public libraries in Greater Hartford.

The Statewide delivery system is "hanging by a thread", due to the State Budget. All Libraries are affected.

Old Business: An update was given on the status of the Board's previous approval of the \$30,000 Whiton Fund expenditure - the new exterior Whiton sign is in production and some RFID equipment has been purchased already.

New Business: None

Meeting Adjourned by Miriam Byroade at 7:08pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Grace Cedrone