

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

2/9/10

1. The Library Endowment is now being managed by Essex Financial Services.
2. The Assistant Director and Director will review the requested FY 11 City Budget on February 18 with the Mayor, Administrative Aide, Finance Director, and Senior Fiscal Analyst. They received our Goals for FY 11, based on our Strategic Plan, and around which we shape our annual budget request.
3. The Personnel Committee authorized the printing of the Employee Handbook and distribution to staff.
4. The House Committee was informed about minor flooding in the AV/YA following a torrential rain on January 25. Our Facilities staff will try one more "fix" in the spring. An expensive excavation and repair is not warranted at this time.
5. With the completion of interviews for Assistant Head, Children's Services, we are preparing to offer the position to an applicant.
6. We began "Express DVD" service in which the latest films can be checked out for two days, enabling a fast turn-around.
7. Amazing Grace wrote us that the 813 items donated by staff in 2009 enabled two families to select food each month throughout the entire 12 month calendar year.
8. Library Use Increases, July-December 2009, over the 2008 period:
Circulation: 1% (books 4%) Programs: 45% Door Count: 10%
9. Middletown February 2010 Statistics (Planning, Development and Conservation):
Local Economy- The December unemployment rate increased to 7.5%, resulting in 12 months that Middletown has not seen its workforce at full employment levels, (6.4%) Middletown has been stuck at around 2,000 unemployed during the past year. Job opportunities are still in positive territory, but not enough to get the unemployment rate down. Middletown likely needs a sustained period 600 vacancies monthly to change the employment picture. In the past 15 years Middletown never experiences more than 3 months of unemployment greater than 6.4%.
Housing- While the winter months are expected to be weaker conditions for the housing market, the real threat moving forward is increased borrowing costs in the form of interest rates. The Condo market showed some strength in December, with the single family homes sales and prices experiencing some pullback from the strong fall market.
10. Reports from Trustee Rubacha on workshops on planned gifts and a stronger Board were sent to the Board.
11. The Final Report on Middletown Community Conversations, which were held at the time of the Inauguration, and a plaque from the Mayor and City Council were shown to the Board.
12. A report on new funds from the Friends of the Library Approval was presented.
13. Grant applications to the Middletown Arts Commission for 2010 Middletown International Film Festival and a Senior Cook Book were distributed to the Board.
14. The Technology Project Status and other Library reports were distributed.
15. The Assistant Director highlighted interviews of applicants for Assistant Head of Children's Services, meetings with Union officers on a procedure for Christmas Eve closings, and meetings with Technology Services and Information Services staff on several matters,
16. Calendar:
Tuesday, February 16, South Windsor Public Library, 1:00-4:00. Trustee Kamins and the Director will attend a State Library focus group on the needs of Connecticut libraries.
Thursday, February 25, 8:30 am. The Director will talk about our Job and Career Programs and other services at the Middlesex Area Interagency Council.
Thursday, March 4, 8:00 am. Trustee Rubacha will talk about our services at the Central Business Bureau.