

**MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

**May 29, 2008**

**7:15 pm**

Approved June 26, 2008

Present: George Hayward, Howard Jacobs, Mindy Leiterman, Thomas McCarthy, Estelle Palevsky, Calvin Thomas, Susan Wolfert; Diana Juettner, Town Council Liaison, Eugenie Contrata, Library Director, Marilyn Greiner, Assistant Library Director

Presenters: John Sexton, WLS, Teen Services, Kate Colquitt, GPL Teen Services Librarian

Visitors: Ginger Grant, Bob Reninger, Hal Samis, one unidentified individual

President Jacobs introduced John Sexton the Teen Services professional from the Westchester Library System (WLS), who was invited by the Library Board to give a brief overview of popular items that libraries offer to bring teens to libraries. He also introduced Kate Colquitt, the Greenburgh Public Library's Teen Services librarian. He introduced Calvin Thomas and welcomed him to his first full Library Board meeting.

President Jacobs explained the procedures for visitors who attend Library Board meetings. He said the Board entertains public comments for the first half hour of each Board meeting, affording each speaker a maximum of five minutes to speak. If there are more than six speakers each speaker's time is prorated to conform to the half hour allotted to public comments. President Jacobs said the Board may or may not answer questions, but will answer questions put in writing. He said disruption of a meeting of the Library Board of Trustee is not permitted and will not be tolerated. Individuals responsible for such misconduct will, after appropriate warning, be removed from the meeting and be subject to disciplinary actions.

President Jacobs called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

Mr. Samis questioned giving raises to part-time employees in light of declining revenue. He mentioned the reduction in the interest income the Town is now projecting to receive this year, which will reduce the Library's portion of that revenue. Mr. Samis asked the Library Board to take a pro-active role with the Town Board to determine ownership and occupancy of the property at 300 Tarrytown Road.

President Jacobs said that the Greenburgh Public Library is not a department of the Town nor a School or Association Library District though some of the same regulations apply. He said the Greenburgh Public Library is more like a municipal library in that the Town Board appropriates funds to it and appoints its board members.

Trustee Palevsky moved the minutes from the May 1, 2008 meeting be accepted as presented. Vice President Wolfert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Secretary/Treasurer Hayward said the bills had been reviewed and were in order. Secretary/Treasurer Hayward made a motion to approve the bills from April 17, 2008 through May 21, 2008, in the amount of \$38,365.70, for payment. Vice President Wolfert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

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Vice President Wolfert had several questions about the Treasurer's Report and then moved to approve it. Secretary/Treasurer Hayward seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Mr. Sexton gave a report on Teen Services in libraries, saying that many kids are playing games in libraries and noting that the 42<sup>nd</sup> Street Library offers gaming programs. He said for the past twenty years libraries have focused on teenagers, an overlooked segment of the community. In the 90s libraries started focusing on catching the nine to eighteen year old, hoping to make them lifelong library users. Libraries are dedicating space for teens and have become successful at bringing teens into libraries in the last 10 years. He said books are just one important form of literacy but now there are other forms of literacy such as CDs, the Internet, graphic novels, etc. Gaming is just another component of bringing teenagers into the library. He said he attended a program at the Port Chester Library who had borrowed a Wii from WLS and has a gaming program every Tuesday evening where the teens play "tennis", "box" etc. He said they have about twenty kids every week and they play together, working in a collaborative way to learn, teach and advance in the game. They learn socialization skills. Through gaming libraries are attracting teens in unprecedented numbers. They learn the library is a safe, warm and accommodating place and has many resources available to them. He said not many libraries are circulating games but WLS has five or six games available though only Guitar Hero is currently popular. He said Tarrytown had a program offering Guitar Hero and 45 kids showed up and he estimated half of those teens had never been in a library before. He said a number of the participants were of Latin decent and their parents came with them, wondering why their children wanted to go to the library. Mr. Sexton said that there was a study in Chalmersburg, IL reporting a 40 – 60% increase in book circulation after gaming was introduced in the library. He said that most twenty-four to twenty-eight year olds speak the language of gaming in the work force. Ms. Colquitt said that a recent Harvard Business Review article shows that employees are hiring people with the skills required in gaming. She said gamers are skilled at marketing and sharing collaboratively. They also develop a sense of winning from games, as they have to learn, go back and do something over again. She said this is really a new form of literacy and that proficient gamers read at a higher level than none gamers. This is a way to reach out to lower income level populations to increase their level of literacy. As Andrew Farber quoted from a recent Pew Institute study 65% of college freshman play games while only 40% of libraries offer gaming opportunities. Ms. Colquitt said some schools are incorporating gaming into their curriculum, using a game called Civilization to learn about history. To advance in the game you have to learn about the topic in the game. They learn to follow stories in games and kids come together as it's a sharing experience. Town Council Liaison Juettner said that the law school is using games to teach law students, such as court room simulations and other interactive experiences.

### Administration Report

Trustee Palevsky said she had met with children's illustrator Eric Velasquez along with Director Contrata, Children's Librarian Mary Slamin and Foundation Directors' Vicki Cobb and Jacqui Bishop. Mr. Velasquez said he doesn't have the time to paint a mural for the children's room but suggested a contest at the Fashion Institute of Technology where he teaches. Juniors and Seniors would submit mural proposals. After F.I.T. faculty judged the submissions, they would be put before members of the Library and

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Foundation Boards and Library staff to make the final judgment to one mural to be produced for the children's room. This would take place in the fall and over the winter. Mr. Velasquez will speak with the Assistant Dean of F.I.T. about this idea and get back to the committee.

Director Contrata handed out copies of a Pathfinder for teens that Andrew Farber, Librarian Trainee and his partner submitted as a final paper for Library School. The Library will be placing this on the website as it is an excellent resource for Teens. Mr. Farber received high praise from a noted Library Professional, Mary Kate Chelton.

### Building Committee

Trustee Palevsky said Triton Construction had reported the following:

- The upper and lower parking lots have been paved.
- The curtain wall and all the glazing is 98% complete.
- The Plaza area driveway is in progress and will be completed this coming month.
- All sidewalks and curbs are 85% complete.
- The original building ceiling grid is complete and painting is in progress.
- Lighting installation in the original building is in progress.
- Exterior metal panels' installation is in progress.
- Framing and sheetrock is 75% complete.
- Mechanical rough ins are in progress.
- All HVAC roof top equipment is installed and piping completion to the equipment is in progress.
- Construction trailers have been moved off site to allow for the site work to continue in the lower parking and loading dock areas.

### Presentation

President Jacobs introduced former Library Board Trustee Ginger Grant and thanked her for her many years of outstanding service on the Library Board, including her service as Vice President. He presented her with a plaque and said her contribution to the Board and the community was invaluable. He thanked her for doing so much during her nine years on the Library Board.

Ms. Grant thanked the Board and said that she enjoyed her time on the Board despite some difficult times and said she knows that the Library is in good hands and that they all worked together to provide the community with a beautiful library that will serve the community well for many years.

### Foundation

The Board discussed fundraising efforts by the Foundation. President Jacobs will speak to Ms. Chriss and emphasize the need to also raise unrestricted funds.

Director Contrata said the Town Board had invited Ms. Chriss to appear at the June 3 work session and that Ms. Chriss has indicated she plans to attend.

The next Foundation meeting is Tuesday, June 10. Trustee McCarthy will attend as the Library Board liaison.

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Trustee Leiterman asked about the Friends of the Greenburgh Library and Director Contrata said she is preparing a proposal to the Friends to ask for a significant contribution.

**Old Business**

Trustee Hayward moved to approve the Parking Policy as presented. Trustee Palevsky seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

**New Business**

There was discussion about the Cybermobile schedule and the funding provided by the Lanza Family Foundation. Due to repair costs the funding provided by the Lanza Family Foundation will not cover the Cybermobile costs through June 30 as originally planned but through June 13. Director Contrata said Winsome Gordon of the Town's philanthropy department has said that the Lanza Family Foundation has been pleased with the service provided by the Cybermobile and the comments of the Cybermobile patrons.

Vice President Wolfert moved to approve the following resolution, *that the Library Board will suspend Cybermobile service effective June 13, 2008, if there is no additional funding for it after June 13.* Trustee McCarthy seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Trustee Palevsky moved to approve the annual step increases for James Stirbis, Library Clerk, effective January 31, 2008, Joan Crosser, Library Clerk, effective April 8, 2008 and Beverly Thompson, Library Clerk, effective May 16, 2008. Secretary/Treasurer Hayward seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

President Jacobs talked about the programs available to Trustees in the Mid-Hudson Library System and suggested that WLS pursue similar programs for the Trustees in Westchester County. Director Contrata will contact WLS about this topic.

**Announcements**

President Jacobs and Secretary/Treasurer Hayward have been registered for the Trustee Institute on Thursday, June 5.

Secretary/Treasurer Hayward moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice President Wolfert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Minutes transcribed by Cory Deitchman, Assistant to the Library Director.