

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Minutes
April 2, 2009

Members present: President Margaret Coffey, Treasurer Thomas Gray, Secretary Mary Jane Bolles, Ruth Levy, Mary Ann Thompson, Cheryl Ebert, Eugene Burns, Bethany Williams, Norman Sweeney

Advisory members present: Leigh Ann Scheider, BC Executive Assistant; Andrew Block, City Community Relations Director

Members absent: Lanny Kipp, Constance Barnes

Advisory members absent: Dr. Patricia Gazda-Grace, Binghamton City Schools; Katie Bertrand, BOCES

Also present: Director Lisa Wise; Secretary Sandra Ulbricht; Library/Union President Jennifer Kot-Ferro; Peter DeWind, County Attorney; Carol Oestrich, Friend's Treasurer & Foundation Secretary; Lori Accardi, Deputy Director Catholic Charities; Michael Harman, Portfolio's Manager

Treasurer T. Gray called the Library Board of Trustees' meeting to order at 8:45 a.m.

Amendments to the Agenda

OB – Carol Oestrich, Friends of the Library Treasurer and Broome Library Foundation Secretary

Public Comments

None

Appointments & Resignations

Resignation of James Bedrin part time custodial worker
Appointment of Chris Youmans to replace J. Bedrin

E. Burns motioned; R. Levy seconded to accept the March 5, 2009 minutes as drafted. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

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REPORTS

Ad Hoc Garden Committee: R. Levy, ch.

Amendments to the original draft –

- 49 people maximum until the crash bar is installed as recommended by the City of Binghamton Fire Marshall.
- No tent rental agency recommended. Added, however, that it must be a fire resistant tent. R. Levy stated that a sample contract received from Burns Rental does not indicate that the tents are fire resistant. E. Burns to contact City Fire Department Chief Whalen about what the fire department requirements/specifications are for fire resistant tents.

R. Levy advised the board if rental of the garden is to proceed this year the motion made at the last board meeting to hold off renting for private parties needs to be rescinded. MJ Bolles advised that she made the motion because she is apprehensive about opening the garden this year for private parties in that the Library is not quite ready to start the first of May. E. Burns stated that this motion prevented the board from having a rental event which might be of value for trial and error. There need be no PR on rental of the Reading Garden. Although reluctant, MJ Bolles advised that she would go along with it if that is the consensus of the board.

MJ Bolles motioned to rescind her original motion to not open the Reading Garden for 2009 to private parties. C. Ebert seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

N. Sweeney would like a meeting and an understanding with Broome County Security regarding the garden.

Discussion followed regarding a kick-off event on the first Friday in May, to coincide with the city's 'First Friday' event. However, with the library closing at 5:00, that would mean keeping the lobby open for restrooms and retaining security. Another option would be to have the kick-off on Saturday or change the date to June. It was suggested that the Morris Dancers event be held during the day at BCPL on a Friday, keeping it separate from First Friday

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events that begin at 5:00 p.m. Being a public event, the Library Garden would not be restricted to 49 people but the gates on Pine Street need to be open if over that number. R. Levy also suggested in addition to having the Morris Dancers, having the Hungry Ear short story program. It was the consensus of the board to hold the kick-off of the opening of the garden from 1pm to 3pm, May 1st.

E. Burns motioned to accept the Reading Garden Policy; MJ Bolles seconded, with no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

Director: L. Wise

Additional discussion and information to Director's Report:

1. As stated in the Director's Report, five to seven African-American youths have been causing problems in the library for several weeks screaming, running, yelling and swearing in the library. L. Wise showed a DVD from the security cameras of the youth being disruptive in the lounge and rotunda. She advised that during each incident they were asked to leave the library but would return the next day continuing to be disruptive even after being made aware of the Code of Conduct. The most recent incident on March 18th involved harassment and threats to library patron Gregory Branum, and spitting on the Security Officer. L. Wise also received a call from a patron, who she knows, that several youth ran from the bushes as she was driving out of the parking lot (waiting to turn into traffic on Court St.), and tried to get into her car and pounded on the car hood. Immediately following the March 18th incident, Binghamton Police chased the teens and told them not to come back into the Library. BC Security Officer Vanca investigated the incident and visited their homes. Of the six one was 14 and two had been in jail for unrelated offenses. BC Security would like them banned from the Library and grounds.

After a great deal of discussion, E. Burns motioned to ban the youths for three months, until the end of this school year, June 30, 2009.

Discussion followed on an extended time of banishment for the youth that spit on the security officer and the youth that threatened G. Branum. The two will be banned for one year, until April 30, 2010. P. DeWind advised that to extend a longer banishment for the two youth shows that the board's decision isn't arbitrary, isn't capricious, and there is a reason behind it. It was the consensus of

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the board that they have to make a strong position that this type of activity won't be tolerated.

E. Burns motioned to ban the youth involved in the March 18th incident for three (3) months with the exception of one who spit on the Security Officer and another who threatened a patron, which will be for twelve (12) months. T. Gray seconded. With no abstentions or nays motion carried.

Per the request of the board the Code of Conduct will be displayed in the rotunda and L. Wise will ask that J. Dadamio, Director of Security attend the next library board meeting. T. Gray did not feel that the custodian should become involved in matters that should be handled by the security officer and asked that L. Wise advise custodial staff of this.

2. L. Wise advised that all of Laura Knochen-Davis' Foundation information on the library's PC was downloaded to a flash drive and Foundation documents were placed in a file cabinet. L. Knochen-Davis retained a key to the office. Per L. Wise, L. Knochen-Davis was aware of the Board's request to make use of this space as a possible revenue source and the request to have the room removed of Foundation files and personal effects. C. Oestrich stated that the Foundation still had legal matters to settle and papers were stored in that office which she or L. Davis needs access to as well as the computer information. C. Oestrich asked if the computer and the file cabinets could be left in that space until another tenant was found. T. Gray advised that the board would like the room ready to show to those who might be interested in renting the space. He stated the library board didn't think this would be a problem and it was not the board's intent to be malicious. The recommendation was that L. Wise find a secure location for the files and computer and a key to the room so that L. Knochen-Davis has access to the information she needs. C. Oestrich asked that the Friends file cabinet in the Foundation office also be stored in a secure location. M. Coffey advised that R. Cline has asked to meet with her.

Board President: M. Coffey

None

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OLD BUSINESS

1. Library Garden – discussed Ad Hoc Library Garden under Committee Reports
2. Memorandum of Understanding – M. Coffey advised that a meeting will be held with the Historical Society regarding the Memorandum.

NEW BUSINESS

Portfolios Café – Lori Accardi, Deputy Director of Catholic Charities and Michael Harman, Portfolios Manager, attended to discuss renewing the contract and continuing the food cart at BCPL. L. Accardi discussed special menu choices, financial struggles, reviewing/renewing their programs, staffing problems and pricing.

Questions asked by the board: customer comment questionnaire, tracking number of patrons, shortened hours different than the contractual agreement, location, and grilling in the garden.

M. Harman stated that the response to the questionnaire was excellent/good and with ideas on what the customers would like to see. L. Accardi stated that a more formal survey could be brought back to the board. As far as shortening hours, it may have been a misunderstanding. The reason Portfolio's were forced to cut back on hours was because of staffing issues. L. Accardi stated if the board expects certain hours and there is a procedure to request to change those hours it should be clarified. In regards to the atmosphere in the room, she is not sure what can be done. She states that until the Reading Garden is established, 2009 may not be the best time to grill unless that is something the board would like to have. MJ Bolles stated that the Garden Committee voted it down at this time.

T. Gray advised that the library's public lounge has some potential and it is something that the board needs to think about in terms of how it could look more like a café. Communicating to the library when changes in hours are necessary is suggested. T. Gray also states that the potential may exist during certain events to allow Portfolio's to use a grill.

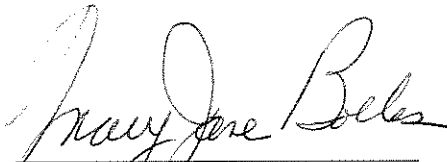
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T. Gray motioned to renew the contract with Portfolio's Café to continue services at the Library; MA Thompson seconded. With two abstentions, motion carried.

Other items of business:

1. Public Comments Policy was approved at the March meeting. A final draft of the Public Comments Policy included.
2. Because the Friends will be receiving money from the Broome Library Foundation to maintain the Library Garden, C. Oestrich asked that a copy of the Reading Garden Policy be supplied to the Friends. She also states that she will be back to the board if the Friends receive the money from the Broome Library Foundation to discuss what the library board's role will be as far as the Friends are concerned.
3. A going away celebration will be held at the May board meeting for Bethany Williams.

With no further business to discuss, E. Burns motioned to adjourn.



Mary Jane Bolles
Secretary