

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Minutes
June 4, 2009

Members present: President Margaret Coffey, Vice President Lanny Kipp, Treasurer Tom Gray, Secretary Mary Jane Bolles, Ruth Levy, Cheryl Ebert, Mary Ann Thompson, Eugene Burns, Norman Sweeney

Members absent: Constance Barnes

Advisory members

Present: Leigh Ann Scheider, Executive Assistant to County Executive;
Andrew Block, Director City Community Relations

Advisory members

Absent: Dr. Patricia Gazda-Grace, Binghamton City Schools; Katie Bertrand, BOCES

Also present: Director Lisa Wise, Administration Secretary Sandra Ulbricht,
Library/Union President Jennifer Kot-Ferro, County Attorney
Peter DeWind

President M. Coffey called the Library Board of Trustees' meeting to order at 8:32 am.

Amendments to the Agenda: none

Public Comments: none

E. Burns motioned to accept the May Minutes as drafted; L. Kipp seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

Appointments & Resignations:

Resignations: Susan Hansen, Librarian I has accepted a position elsewhere
Patricia Przybylski Librarian II is retiring June 27

Standing Reports

Director: L. Wise

1. Trustee workshop through 4CLS scheduled for Saturday the 13th in Sidney.

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2. L. Wise advised that legislature is rushing through a proposal by the Attorney General to consolidate local governments. Public Library Districts are part of this proposal.

Included in the board packet is also information on a consultant willing to do the research on a library taxing district. This may be a moot point now; and, additionally, Vestal no longer supports this plan leaving only Endicott, Johnson City and possibly BCPL. L. Wise doesn't see any advantages to it now -- there is no monetary gain or loss to be made right at the moment.

L. Wise advised that NYLA is advising libraries to go to their elected officials asking them to exempt library districts from this legislation. The impact of this would probably be on the smaller libraries if Broome County libraries did consolidate. After much discussion it was decided that a sub committee should be formed to look into the exact details of what this could mean and come back to the board for a resolution in July. The board should make a more in-depth study as to how it will impact not only us, an adequate and stable funding source, how much this legislation is going to enforce that there will be one board deciding library service in BC, what is to be gained from consolidation. For example, combined and similar services could mean less administration, and how will this affect the agreement with 4CLS in the merge of computer services. M. Coffey asked that E. Burns chair this committee. Committee members will include L. Kipp and T. Gray.

3. In addition to the regular Summer Reading Program this year, BCPL will be holding a teen program.
4. The Heather Society will be planting heather in the Reading Garden next week.

L. Wise advised that only one person so far has made inquiries about garden rental.

Because of a capital improvement project, the Arena and the Forum may have chairs that BCPL may be interested in.

E. Burns advised that he spoke with Fireman Tinder regarding tents. He stated that there is a permit required from the Fire Department to erect a tent. E. Burns suggested that we may want to include in the Garden Policy. P. DeWind advised the board it

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could be included but not necessary because technically it is county property.

M.J. Bolles asked L. Wise if a letter is needed from the board to the Friends requesting funds to purchase a garden shed.

MJ Bolles motioned that a letter be sent to the Friends of the Library requesting funds to purchase a pre-built shed not to exceed \$3,000, and thank them for their continued support of the Library. T. Gray seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

5. L. Wise stated that the expenditure report shows an increase in overtime, building and maintenance supplies, and local travel. The overtime was due to the help needed with the County move to BCPL. The increase in the need for supplies was for DPW to add light switches so that so that one switch on each floor does not control all of the lighting, eliminating the need to have all of the lights on until 11:00PM. In the last couple of months BCPL has saved 9.8% in electricity. No charge for labor has been received so far from DPW for this work. Local travel budget is over and will have to be adjusted for in the 2010 budget. Staff is attending more local workshops and traveling to outreach activities rather than traveling out of town.
6. Sentry Alarm completed a thorough cleaning of the system that will hopefully stop the alarms from going off after hours.
7. J. Dadamio, Director of Security, met with L. Wise at BCPL May 26th and did a walk through suggesting some small renovations or changes – installation of a counter top at the Circulation desk, moving the cash registers underneath the counter and security alarm buttons at each service desk. Units cost for alarm (panic) buttons is approximately \$35.00 each. Board felt a worthwhile investment. J. Dadamio will provide the board with a more detailed proposal for the next board meeting in July. L. Wise states that she is concerned about the safety of the gift shop staff with patrons loitering around that area and asking for change. She suggested that they discontinue this practice, and will speak to the Friends at their next Board meeting. N. Sweeney feels that the issue has not been addressed at all and we have attracted a clientele that are not really here for the purpose of the library. L. Wise discussed information in an article from the Public Library Association's March/April issue – Problems associated with Mentally Ill Individuals in Public Libraries written by two medical

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doctors. This is happening all over, just depends on how large or small your community is. Copies will be sent to the board. Security at the library was discussed by the board and their continued concerns of safety for the staff and patrons. Suggestions included having a liaison with the Binghamton Police Department, an evacuation plan that is practiced annually, a lock down procedure of which P. DeWind doesn't think that there is a formal plan other than what is provided by Emergency Services, a stronger enforcement of the BCPL Code of Conduct, a security system that allows access to the building and is done in such a way that it provides a safe atmosphere but not restrictive. A. Block will check with the Chief of Police to see if there are cars available in the fleet to park at BCPL. He questions how we could coordinate with the County Sheriff or any law enforcement that would otherwise be on hand here. The board will wait for J. Dadamio's report of which the board asked for three plans – good, better, best; specific so that the details and options are in there to explore all of it. It was suggested that L. Wise talk with administration at Columbus School in reference to the youth involved in an incident at BCPL and thought to be students there. And, that she contact other libraries regarding their security procedures. L. Wise advised that she spoke with Elmira and Tompkins County libraries. They don't even have the level of security that we do.

OLD BUSINESS

Historical Society Memorandum of Understanding: the Historical Society has still not responded to L. Wise's request to review the Memorandum of Understanding which has not been reviewed since being drafted in the year 2000. She was originally advised that they had an ad hoc committee to review it. In recent discussions with the H.S. president she was told that the committee would meet in June. The board asked that L. Wise touch base with G. Smith, also a member of the H.S., for a date of their meeting and if they could send a representative to the July library board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

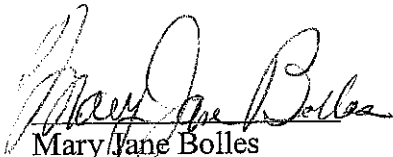
The County Executive has reviewed two resumes for the vacant position on the Library Board of Trustees and decided on the appointment of Karima Legette. Legislature will vote on at their June 18th meeting. L.A. Scheider advised that she has a file of resumes of all interested in board appointments for when positions

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become available.

L. Kipp motioned that the Library Board of Trustees recommend Karima Legette to the County Legislature for the vacant position on the Library Board. T. Gray seconded. With no abstentions or nays the motion carried.

With no further business to discuss, L. Kipp motioned to adjourn the meeting; C. Ebert seconded.



Mary Jane Bolles
Secretary