

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Minutes
5/7/09

Members present: Vice President Lanny Kipp, Treasurer Thomas Gray, Ruth Levy, Mary Ann Thompson, Constance Barnes, Cheryl Ebert, Eugene Burns, Norman Sweeney, Bethany Williams

Members absent: Margaret Coffey, Mary Jane Bolles

Advisory Members

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

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, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Director of Broome Security James Dadamio

Vice President Lanny Kipp called the Library Board of Trustees' meeting to order at 8:40 a.m.

No Public Comments

J. Dadamio attended the board meeting to discuss safety and security issues at BCPL and the placement of the magnetometer screening station at BCPL temporarily while county departments are sharing space at BCPL due to contamination at the County Office Building.

Magnetometer statistics from April 20th through May 5th were distributed and reviewed. 424 items taken from patrons were held by security officers while patrons were inside the library and 422 items were returned to patrons as they left the building. He states that these numbers are important because that means nothing serious was seen by Security that was illegal to possess in New York State on the street. A .25 caliber hand gun was also found by a security officer. Permits were checked and in order for the patron to carry a concealed weapon. However, County policy and the Library's Code of Conduct read "carrying weapons of any type on library property is prohibited." The patron was asked to leave the library and return without the gun. He complied with this directive.

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J. Dadamio pointed out that BCPL incidents are higher than those of other facilities listed, but in his opinion, it is because the magnetometer is new to this facility and people are not used to it being here. He also states that it was his opinion in the last three weeks the library clientele has changed dramatically as a result of the screening point. L. Wise agreed, and has received many positive written comments from the patrons in regards to the screening station.

Because of the concern with the safety of the patrons and staff, the Library Board discussed with J. Dadamio the construction of a screening station in the library and what his recommendation would be. To do it the right way, and he stated that that would be the only way he would agree, is to have an x-ray machine, the walk through magnetometer, and a work counter as a barrier. The cost for this set up would be about \$60,000. J. Dadamio stated that the problem would be with staffing. Two security officers would be needed to operate the screening point and a third to maintain the building. Without factoring in the off-hours, personnel costs would probably run \$120,000 a year. The board asked that J. Dadamio provide them with the best possible security plan for BCPL including the cost, as well as the level of security of other comparable libraries in urban areas and what options they exercise. J. Dadamio asked that L. Wise send him the names of some libraries and a contact person and he will make some calls. He did mention, however, that several libraries outside of Broome County do not have a security division and have to contract out and would probably not have a magnetometer station. As soon as county departments reoccupied the County Office Building, J. Dadamio stated that he would complete a physical security assessment at the Library with L. Wise and get the report to the library board. L. Wise stated that even without that equipment, one security officer on a shift is no longer enough to deal with the level of activity and numbers of people in the building and grounds.

Amendments to the Agenda: none

Minutes:

R. Levy moved to approve the April Minutes; Mary Ann Thompson seconded. With no abstention or nays, motion carried.

Appointments & Resignations: none

Standing Reports

Director: L. Wise

Additional comments and discussion to Director's Report

1. Currently in discussion with Portfolio's regarding their use of extra electrical appliances that are blowing library circuit breakers.

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2. Two of the youths recently banned from the library tried to enter last week and were stopped at the door. One said he was in jail and did not realize he had been banned from BCPL. He was given a copy of the original letter banning him from the library. No further problems have happened since then. It was suggested that L. Wise call Columbus School where it is thought that the youths attend.
3. 2,775 BCPL items have been loaned to 4CLS libraries since the merge, a very positive outcome.
4. Laura Knochen-Davis returned the Foundation office key to L. Wise, boxed Foundation files and moved them to a secure closet on the 2nd floor.
5. County office relocation to BCPL has been very positive. County legislators are visiting the library more regularly and one said that he would like to work with the library to budget for additional security. The library is much more visible. Staff has been extraordinarily helpful with additional county staff in the building. L.A. Scheider advised that the County Executive is very pleased with how welcoming L. Wise has been to the displaced departments.

T. Gray suggested offering the county annex space at BCPL for security staff to simply operate out of this facility, and maybe just their physical presence might be enough to deter incidents. Because cost is a factor, he did not think a screening station could be placed in the library. C. Ebert advised that given the recent unfortunate experiences with the American Civic Association and the County Office Building occupation, she could see a difference with increased security in the Library. It is very timely for the board to reach out and think of alternatives as suggested by T. Gray, and see what else is available to make library patrons feel safer. L.A. Scheider advised that because of the ACA incident all county departments are being evaluated for security, but she did not know how the budget could be increased without additional revenues to increase every department's security. L. Wise advised that a higher priority should be given to the library because of the high volume of traffic.

Board President Report:

None

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OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. L. Wise advised that the Library Garden has not been turned over to the county as of yet because paperwork has not been finalized. But because the library is going into the next budget cycle, the board needs to agree to maintain the garden for 2010. The Library Board of Trustees agreed that the garden will be maintained by the library.
2. The Pine Street parking lot has been turned over to the library and L. Wise has received the funding to pave the lot. The board needs to approve maintaining the lot with plowing, lighting, etc.

B. Williams motioned to maintain the Pine Street parking lot; C. Ebert seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

L. Wise advised that DPW has been giving items such as grass seed and extra help in the last three weeks. All electrical work has been completed in the garden by DPW electricians.

Because B. Williams has resigned from the Board of Trustees to continue her education, L. Kipp presented her with a plaque on behalf of the Board of Trustees, County, BCPL and all those appreciating her help. All wished her well.

With no further business to discuss, B. Williams motioned to adjourn.



Sandra Ulbricht
Secretary pro tem