

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Minutes
September 3rd, 2009

Members present: Secretary Mary Jane Bolles, Ruth Levy, Cheryl Ebert, Mary Ann Thompson, Constance Barnes, Eugene Burns, Norman Sweeney

Members absent: Margaret Coffey, Thomas Gray, Lanny Kipp, Karima Legette

Advisory members

Present: Leigh Ann Scheider, Executive Assistant BC Executive

Advisory members

Absent: Andrew Block, Director City Community Relations; Dr. Patricia Gazda-Grace, Binghamton City Schools; Katie Bertrand, BOCES

Also present: Director Lisa Wise; Secretary Sandra Ulbricht, Library Union President Blanche Birtch, BC Attorney Peter DeWind

With the absence of the president and vice president of the Library Board, Secretary Mary Jane Bolles appointed Norman Sweeney to chair the meeting.

N. Sweeney called the Library Board of Trustees' meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Public Comments: none

Amendments to the Agenda: none

Appointments & Resignations: none

E. Burns motioned to accept the August 6th Minutes as presented; C. Barnes seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

Standing Reports

Director: L. Wise

Additional information and discussion on the Director's Report:

1. The results of the e-mail sent to the Board August 11th requesting approval to allow EMS to rent the Technical Services area for an annual fee of \$15,000 were ten votes for and one no vote(see attached.). The reason for

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the board approval was to allow Bret Chellis, Director of EMS, to host a Verizon team to advise EMS whether a 911 backup Call Center could be placed in the Library or made easier in the Health Department. L. Wise advised that he did look over the area on August 13th with Verizon. Because the Library is not in a flood zone, as is the Health Department, the Library is a preferred location. However, BCPL doesn't have the infrastructure that the Health Department has and EMS would have to rebuild the phone system. EMS will have to put a request in to the Federal Government next year for a back-up generator. L. Wise anticipates B. Chellis accepting the BCPL offer but as of yet she has received no formal response. Once received a resolution will come back to the board. Bret Chellis would like to move in by the end of October or the beginning of November. L. Wise will get with Bret Chellis before the next board meeting to find out which location he has decided to go with and to make sure that EMS moving in would not interrupt library services.

MJBolles asked that the results of the e-mail vote be included with the September minutes.

2. L. Wise advised that funding for BCPL is included in the City of Binghamton's 2010 budget for the full amount, \$655,229. BCPL has invoiced the City for 2009 funding.
3. The Broome County Historical Society has responded to the letter invoicing them for use of the vault by requesting a meeting with the Executive Committee of the Library Board with the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee to discuss the issue. The Historical Society's board meets September 9th. MJ Bolles recommends that BCPL notify the Historical Society, for them to set a date with their Ad Hoc Committee to meet with the BCPL Executive Committee of the Library Board.
4. The Tools of History Grant of \$5,016 was received from SCRLC. This money is coming to the Library but the information and materials being digitized belong to the Historical Society.
5. Linda Beamer, President of the Phelps Mansion, was asked for compensation for Monday Afternoon Club parking in the BCPL lot. L. Wise advised that they are currently paying A.V.R.E. for their Monday Afternoon Club parking. Members continue to park in the BCPL lot.
6. Work is currently being done to add lighting to the Pine Street lot. Paving will be done in October.

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7. SCORE, a national group of retired business executives and owners who counsel new entrepreneurs or those thinking about starting a business, holds monthly meetings in the Ahearn Room free of charge and would like to rent the Foundation office for \$600 annually to store their files. It was the consensus of the board that the Library should not commit the space for that amount, although they feel that SCORE is a tremendous organization and supports their mission. L. Wise advised that they stated that they would continue to hold their monthly meetings at the library.

L. Wise called Binghamton University, their Marketing Communications Department, their Downtown BU Center, the United Way, and Literacy Volunteers about renting the Foundation Office space. BU was not interested at this time but would let others know that this space is available. United Way has not responded and Literacy Volunteers does not want to move from their current site.

8. L. Wise, E. Burns, N. Sweeney met with County Legislator Suzanne Buchta, ch. of the Education, Culture and Recreation Committee, and Legislator Richard Materese regarding budget cuts and County Library Aid. It was thought in earlier conversations L. Wise had with D. Karre that consolidation would not effect the collection of fees; that it would be a wash; that the on-line catalog system could run an annual or semi-annual report to do an exchange of monies. This, however, has not come to pass and to purchase a custom program would be a cost to BCPL as stated by D. Karre. It was the consensus of the board to explore the cost of that software program. P. DeWind advised that the purchase of the software program would probably have to be approved by B.A.C. with back up to show that this is something only the company can produce. L. Wise stated that she was of the understanding that D. Karre has added to the cost of every library's contracts for ongoing automation projects and this certainly would be one that benefits all of the libraries, not just BCPL. R. Materese responded to the loss of revenue on the returns as something BCPL and the County should work out with the Four County Library System. L. Wise stated the Education, Culture and Recreation Committee members would investigate the formula paid to other County libraries. L. Wise will continue to monitor.

E. Burns motioned and MA Thompson seconded to accept the director's report. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

9. P. DeWind advised that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Historical Society should probably include some mechanism by which it can be ended by mutual consent or by the notice of one party.

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Something to the effect that this agreement may be terminated on a 90 or 60 days notice written by either party. But, if done as an actual solid multi-year lease, then the H. S. would be forced to review on an annual basis. This would require some legislative authorization.

Board President: M. Coffey

M. Coffey absent from board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Library Garden: N. Sweeney and L. Wise attended the Friends of the Library Board meeting at which they discussed taking control of the maintenance of the garden. R. Levy advised that a meeting with the Friends and BCPL Garden Committee will be scheduled to establish guidelines. P. DeWind advised that he understands that the Broome Library Foundation is still trying to get the dissolution approved and it is still with NY State. When the transfer title is complete it would be given to Broome County and turned over to the Library Board of Trustees to operate. L. Wise and R. Levy will report back to the board regarding the meeting with the Friends.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Acceptance of the South Central Local History Tools of History Grant needs approval from the board. BCPL is a member of SCRLC and applied for the grant. The Historical Society is not.

E. Burns motioned to accept the Tools of History Grant; R. Levy seconded. With no abstentions or nays motion carried.

2. Photo Release Form: L. Wise advised that because BCPL is doing more publicity on the Internet with Flickr and YouTube a formal consent is needed from parents that they are okay with their children's pictures on brochures or on the web.

MA Thompson motioned to accept the Photo Release policy; C. Barnes seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.

3. SCORE – discussed under the Director's Report. L. Wise will advise them of the board's decision.
4. Friends Gift Shop Contract Renewal: Lease ended in June.

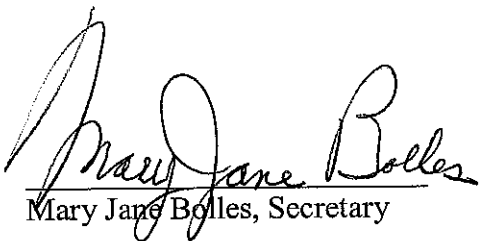
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R. Levy motioned to renew the lease with the Friends gift Shop for an additional two years; MA Thompson seconded. With no abstention or nays, motion carried.

Other items of business:

1. Letter to the Press & Sun-Bulletin – V. Zehl, Press & Sun-Bulletin editor advised L. Wise that the letter written by M. Coffey will be the featured guest editorial in September 6, 2009 newspaper.
2. Suspicious incident in the administration office listed in the Security Officer's report questioned by E. Burns. L. Wise thought that it might be because of alarms going off at night or a phone call received in administration from a father who claimed that his 13 year old son had been solicited online by a female patron. However, the man called back the next day to report that his son made it up.
3. L. Wise to make arrangements with Paul Hoffman from Columbus School to talk with him and with groups of students on the mission of the library, programs, and to let them know that the library is a Safe Place; that if they have a problem at home, BCPL is willing to go through the Safe Place procedures to find alternative housing. P. Hoffman said he would come from the school to the Library if BCPL had a problem with students out of school.
4. Board had positive comments on the Library Newsletter. L. Wise advised that the librarian puts a lot of effort into it. Newsletter is distributed to the Legislators, City Council, and County Executive's office and is placed at the service desks for patrons. It is also on the BCPL website. Distribution is limited because BCPL does not have the staff to deliver as in the past to grocery stores and outside venues.

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



Mary Jane Bolles, Secretary

Attachment
Board minutes – September 3, 2009

E-mail sent 8/11/09 to all board members with the exception of Norman Sweeney who was contacted in person regarding EMS rental of the vacant Technical Services Department as a back-up 911 call center for an annual fee of \$15,000. A preliminary feeling of this proposal was needed from the board as B. Chellis, EMS Director, wanted to bring in Verizon the following week to look over the area.

The response from the board follows:

MJ Bolles – yes
C. Ebert – yes
C. Barnes – yes
E. Burns, no vote; questioned taking the first offer.
K. Legette, yes
L. Kipp, yes
M. Coffey, yes
N. Sweeney, yes
MA Thompson, yes
R. Levy – yes
T. Gray, yes

With all members voting, and the majority voting yes, L. Wise advised B. Chellis.

S. Ulbricht