

APPROVED MINUTES

Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Albany Public Library December 14, 2010

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Dennis Gaffney (president), William Ryan (vice president), Brian Levine (vice president for finance), Andrew Bechard (secretary), Mary Ellen O'Connor, Holly McKenna, Esther Patterson, Leonard Ricchiuti

EXCUSED: Mimi Mounter

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Carol Nersinger (executive director), Elissa Kane (development director), Stephanie Simon (public information officer), Mary Cullinan (chief fiscal officer), Robert Schofield (counsel)

CALL TO ORDER: Dennis Gaffney called the meeting to order at 5:42 p.m.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA: The prepared agenda was unanimously approved by the trustees.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (1) Keith Pickard of the Delaware Area Merchants Group and artist Matt Hart discussed a community partnership that is creating a sculpture for the Delaware neighborhood. The group would like the library to become a partner and consider allowing the artwork to be installed outside the Delaware Branch. (2) Keith Pickard also asked the board to install an exterior sign on the new branch building and remove the one from the old branch location. (3) Ginny Farrell asked the board to consider exhibiting local artwork at the libraries.

MINUTES: The board considered the draft minutes of the Nov. 9, 2010 regular meeting. Andrew Bechard made a motion, seconded by Esther Patterson, to approve the minutes. The motion was unanimously approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT AND CHECK REGISTER: The treasurer's report (covering finances from Jan. 1 through Nov. 30) will be filed. The check register (covering Nov. 11 through Dec. 15) was reviewed by the trustees. Brian Levine made a motion, seconded by Holly McKenna, to approve the check register. The motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA: Items on the consent agenda for the meeting were: reports from the board's Executive Committee, Construction/Facilities, Events & PR, Personnel, and Policy & Governance committees, and the UHLS report. Andrew Bechard made a motion, seconded by William Ryan, to approve the consent agenda. The motion was approved unanimously.

FINANCE COMMITTEE: The committee recently met with representatives from Merrill Lynch to explore the possibility of changing the library's fiscal year. The trustees discussed the library's investment policy and the role of the treasurer.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Dennis Gaffney provided a written report in the pre-meeting packet.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT: Carol Nersinger provided a written report of recent library activities in the pre-meeting packet. She briefly discussed several highlights of the report with the trustees.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Wish List Update: Carol Nersinger discussed several items that are being finished up at the new libraries. Exterior signs for the locations are on the planning agenda for January.

Budget Update and World Café Process: Mary Cullinan provided an update of the November budget figures and a forecast for the December numbers. Stephanie Simon and Elissa Kane provided an update about the planning process, and the trustees engaged in a discussion about it. Carol Nersinger and Dennis Gaffney presented the process for moving forward.

Public Access TV Update: Andrew Bechard said the library is waiting for the city to move forward with plans to install a studio in the basement of the Main Library.

NEW BUSINESS:

MOA with CSEA: Carol Nersinger informed the board that the library’s union employees overwhelmingly ratified the four-year contract extension for 2012-2015. Mary Ellen O’Connor made a motion, seconded by William Ryan, to approve the ratified employment contract with CSEA for Albany Public Library employees. The motion was approved unanimously.

Literacy Grant: Elissa Kane discussed a two-year adult literacy grant opportunity that the library would like to pursue with Literacy New York as a partner. Brian Levine made a motion, seconded by Mary Ellen O’Connor, to submit the grant application. The motion was approved unanimously.

NEXT BOARD MEETING: The next regular board meeting is set for Tuesday, Jan. 11, at 5:30 p.m. at the Main Library.

SECOND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: No comments.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: The trustees unanimously agreed to enter into an executive session at 8 p.m. to discuss personnel matters and possible litigation. After the closed-door discussion, the trustees unanimously approved ending the executive session and returned to the regular meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned immediately following the end of the executive session.