

BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

October 19, 2009 Regular Meeting
Library Board Room, Riverside Drive & Harlem Avenue

Call to Order

President John Chrastka convened the meeting at 7:01 p.m. Board Members present: Jill Bambenek, Irene Martin, Eileen Pech, Jerome Pohlen, Maria Salinas and Louise Sommese. Members absent: Roxanne Faulds and Doris Remp. Staff Members present: Director Tammy Clausen and Kathleen Behrendt, Mary Frank, Briana Perlot, Craig Schumacher and Tammy Sheedy. Berwyn residents: Molly Henry, Rita Maniotis and Michelle Titzer.

Agenda

The agenda was amended to include a discussion of donation boxes under new business and was unanimously approved on a motion by Sommese.

Minutes

On a motion by Pech, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of September 21, 2009.

Public Comment

Henry described her difficulties in filing a complaint asking for the removal from the Library's Young Adults Room of a poster depicting 1950s actor James Dean with a cigarette in his hand. She said she thought the poster conveyed the wrong message about smoking and that children would be better served by posters promoting reading. Henry said she did not consider her request to be censorship and had found three other libraries that supported that view. She also presented a letter of support from a pediatrician.

Titzer and Maniotis also spoke in support of the poster's removal. Titzer said it presented an "inappropriate and reckless image that smoking is cool." Maniotis noted it is unlawful for children to smoke and characterized the poster display as advertising.

President Chrastka said the Board would continue to accept public comment via e-mail or regular mail and that the matter would be referred to an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Bambenek, Martin and Salinas. The committee will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 10, and report its recommendations to the Monday, November 16, meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Correspondence

A request from Cook County Treasurer Maria Pappas for audited financial statements was judged to apply to district rather than municipal libraries.

A card was received from ailing Trustee Remp thanking the Board and staff for the flowers.

Director's Report

Director Clausen highlighted achievements listed in the monthly Departmental Report. She added that an \$8,529 E-rate grant has been received with action still pending on a similar \$32,000 E-rate application. Also pending is a Reference Department application for a Library Services Technology Act (LSTA) grant.

Electrical work has been completed on the southwest corner of the building and power has been restored to the library's sign and outdoor amplification system.

Finance Committee

On a motion by Treasurer Sommese followed by a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved September payables of \$172,884.90.

She reported the \$767.94 Library Board Fund remained unchanged in September.

Clausen reported the City Council accepted the cuts made to the Library's 2009 budget as sufficient.

On a motion by Sommese followed by a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved submitting to the City Council a 2010 budget proposal calling for expenditures and revenues balanced at \$3,580,812.

Based on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, Salinas introduced a motion to approve creation of the new positions of Emergent Technologies Librarian II and Administrative Assistant Clerk. The motion died for want of a second as did a similar motion by Pech to approve only the Emergent Technologies position. The proposals were referred to the Policy and Personnel Committee for further study and recommendations for Board action in November.

Building and Grounds

Still faced with only one snow removal bid, the Committee will explore such possibilities as leasing equipment for in-house plowing or inclusion on the city's plowing schedule.

Policy and Personnel

On a motion by Pech, the Board unanimously agreed to take no action on a proposal to institute linked patron services.

A Metropolitan Library Service sample instrument for evaluating library directors was referred to the Policy and Personnel Committee.

Old Business

On staff recommendation, the gift tree for retired Director Bill Hensley will be planted in spring. The Board Effectiveness training session was rescheduled to the next regular Board meeting at 7 p.m. Monday, November 16. President Chrastka will lead the discussion.

Unfinished Business

Chrastka announced Faulds and Sommese will assist him in planning the welcome reception for new Director Clausen to be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, November 19.

New Business

A proposal to schedule 2010 Board meetings on the third Monday of every month except July was deferred to November to obtain input from members who were absent from the October meeting.

On a motion by Pech, the Board unanimously approved library display of a donation box for Pro Se Services.

Committee Meetings

Buildings and Grounds – tentatively noon or 1 p.m., Tuesday, October 27;

Policy and Personnel – 7 p.m. Monday, November 2;

Ad Hoc Complaint Committee – 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 10

Adjournment

On a motion by Salinas, the meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Eileen Pech, Secretary