

Berwyn Public Library Board Minutes
March 19, 2007 Regular Meeting
Library Board Room, Riverside Drive & Harlem Avenue

Call to Order

President Patricia Zank, called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Members present: John Chrastka, Deb Cullen, Ann Marrone, Irene Martin, Eileen Pech, Louise Sommese and Phyllis Walden. Staff: Director Bill Hensley, Kathi Behrendt and Verna Austen. Guests: Aldermanic Liaison Nona Chapman and Mary Karasek. Member Absent: Doris Remp.

Minutes

The minutes of the Feb. 20, 2007 meeting were accepted as presented.

Financial Report

On a motion by Walden, seconded by Marrone, January reports for Operating Expenses, Maintenance and Building funds, Per Capita Grant and Video Rental Income were accepted as presented and placed on file following an 8-0 roll call vote.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed correspondence from Susan Greenberg, president of the Friends of the Berwyn Public Library, and Bobbie Nye, Librarian I, Technical Services, detailing problems they encountered in reciprocal borrowing of fiction videos. Several Board members confirmed they too, had been denied fiction videos from other libraries because Berwyn assesses a fee for such items and cannot provide interlibrary loan service to patrons of libraries that do not have similar fees. After noting that Cicero and Oak Park libraries recently rescinded their video fees, the Board at length discussed the difficulty of balancing the need for the \$25,000 brought in annually through video fees and the need to serve Berwyn patrons and to maintain good relations with other libraries in the Metropolitan Library System.

On a motion by Cullen, seconded by Pech, the Board Secretary was asked to write to Greenberg acknowledging her concerns, and the video fee policy was referred to the Library's Budget Committee for review.

Comments from Aldermanic Liaison

Alderman Chapman said the Library's 2007 budget request still is being discussed along with other aspects of the City's 2007 appropriation ordinance proposal.

As to the expiring terms of the Library Board's president and treasurer, the alderman confirmed that appointments must be made by the Mayor with the concurrence of the City Council.

Director's Report

Director Hensley presented a letter from Marklund of Geneva, Ill. asking to place a collection bin on the Library parking lot to collect clothing as part of its services for the developmentally disabled. On a motion by Chrastka, the Board unanimously affirmed it "not in the best interest of the Library to accept these kinds of proposals."

Strategic Plan Report

Following a senior staff review of the current Strategic Plan to be facilitated by Kathryn Deiss, Chairman Chrastka said the committee at the suggestion of President Zank will follow up with an on-line questionnaire to other staff members. An outreach questionnaire then can be developed to obtain perceptions of the Library held by stake holders in the community. Walden noted the on-line survey might be a way to obtain input from young people.

Bylaws Report

Chairman Walden expressed the hope that a draft of the bylaws revision can be ready by the next Board meeting.

Finance Report

The informational report on the Library Board Fund reflected no change from the previous month's balance of \$310.94.

Unfinished Business

Discussion of hiring a space consultant to suggest reconfiguration of the first floor and lower level of the Library was tabled pending finalization of the 2007 budget.

Trustee Topics

The Director's performance appraisals were referred to the Policy and Personnel Committee consisting of Cullen, Pech, Sommese and Walden. As soon as evaluation forms are received from all members, the Secretary will consolidate them for committee review.

Chrastka said he plans to attend the March area trustees meeting in the Elmwood Park Library. He invited others to join him on the bus going to Springfield April 19 for Illinois Library Day.

Chrastka led a discussion of the Library Bill of Rights, the American Library Association Code of Ethics and the Ethics Statement for Public Library Trustees, documents that will be referenced in the Berwyn Library bylaws currently under revision. President Zank suggested posting the Bill of Rights in the Library as patron information. Treasurer Walden suggested Bill of Rights interpretations developed by the ALA be used as the basis for the annual Board self-assessment.

Pech distributed reminder invitations to the parking lot dedication at 11 a.m. Saturday, April 14. Board members were asked to be present for the 11 a.m. photo and dedication ceremony and to assist in serving the refreshments that will follow.

Committee Meetings

The Bylaws Committee will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, March 26, followed by Strategic Planning at 7 o'clock.

The Budget Committee will meet at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 4.

The Policy and Personnel Committee will meet at 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 11.

Closed Session

On a motion by Pech, seconded by Chrastka and followed by a roll call vote, the Board adjourned into closed session at 8:37 p.m. pursuant to Section 2 (c) (21) of the Open Meetings Act "...to discuss minutes of meetings lawfully closed and to conduct the semi-annual review of previously closed minutes."

After some discussion, the Board reconvened into open session at 8:41 and on a motion by Walden, seconded by Sommese, the Board voted unanimously on a roll call vote to keep the written minutes of the March 14, 2005 meeting closed and to destroy the tapes.

Adjournment

President Zank declared the meeting closed at 8:43 p.m.

Eileen Pech, Secretary