

BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

June 15, 2009 Regular Meeting

Library Board Room, Riverside Drive & Harlem Avenue

Special Session

Prior to the start of the regular meeting, Board President John Chrastka convened a special session at 6:35 p.m. for a presentation by Space Consultant Fred Schlipf. Members present: Jill Bambenek, Roxanne Faulds, Eileen Pech, Jerome Pohlen, Doris Remp, Maria Salinas and Louise Sommese and Ann Marrone, Member Emeritus; Diane Hillard, Mr. Schlipf's wife; Bill Hensley, Library Director; and Alderman Nona Chapman, Library Liaison. Absent: Board Member Irene Martin.

Mr. Schlipf suggested that two or three months after a new library director has been hired, he could help the Board and staff determine long- and short-term goals and establish priorities, evaluate construction options and work with a Board-selected architect to achieve them. He identified the library's strengths as "a great collection, friendly staff and a building in good repair." Weaknesses included overcrowding, numerous service points, and difficult site lines because of the building's hexagonal shape.

President Chrastka said the Board would discuss his proposal at the August meeting

Regular Meeting

Alderman Chapman and Mr. Schlipf and his wife left the building, and the regular meeting convened at 7:14 p.m. Joining those already present were Staff Members Verna Austen, Kathleen Behrendt, Briana Perlot, Tammy Sheedy and Craig Schumacher, and Berwyn resident Phyllis Walden.

Agenda

At Chrastka's suggestion, the Search Committee report was moved to the closed session, and the agenda then was unanimously approved on a motion by Pech.

Minutes

On motions by Pech, the Board unanimously approved the minutes of the regular meeting and the closed session of May 18, 2009.

Correspondence

Director Hensley reported written confirmation that state per capita grants have been delayed because of a lack of state funds but all libraries are expected to receive their money by August.

Open Forum

Phyllis Walden, former Board member, wished Director a happy retirement and quoted President Abraham Lincoln saying, "I hope you enjoy your new birth of freedom."

Treasurer Sommese said Hensley will be honored at the June 23 City Council meeting.

Director's Report

Pech cited the Berwyn Library's recognition as "an outstanding partner of District 100"; "an organization that supports community education by Morton High School's job placement and mentorship program"; and as offering one of the top five large print collections in the country.

Schumacher displayed a mini laptop computer, one of five to be purchased as an experiment to assess their potential for expanding patron computer access at less cost than investing in new work stations and equipment.

Finance Report

On a motion by Sommese followed by a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved the May payables of \$147,810.77. Sommese reported Building Fund donations of \$600 from the Berwyn Woman's Club and \$30 from the National Hispanic Institute. The Board Fund was unchanged at \$872.94.

Building and Grounds

Hensley reported the city will support replacing Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning System condenser bundles but will continue to explore funding for replacing the entire HVAC system.

Unfinished Business

Board Self-Evaluation Forms will be tabulated by Pech for discussion at the August meeting.

Treasurer Sommese was asked to keep the Board informed of the city's progress in scheduling 2010 budget discussions and deadlines.

Sales of the 19 remaining copies of "The History of the Berwyn Public Library" will be promoted at the time capsule burial to take place at the library at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 4, as the conclusion to Berwyn's centennial year.

New Business

On a motion by Pech, the Board unanimously approved the annual resolution authorizing non-resident library cards.

By consensus, the Board agreed to seek requests for proposals for snow removal and to ask Tony Montiel to screen the responses.

At the suggestion of President Chrastka, Board At-Your-Service-Day forms will be distributed at the August meeting.

By Board consensus, Tony Montiel was asked to screen Requests for Proposals on snow removal. It was agreed Board-At-Your-Service Forms should be distributed at the August meeting.

Closed Session

On a motion by Pech and an 8-0 roll call vote, the Board entered closed session at 8:09 p.m. pursuant to Open Meetings Act Section 120/2(c) (1) to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance or dismissal of employees.

Following discussion, the Board, on a motion by Sommese, reconvened in open session at 9:04 p.m. and took the following action:

- On a motion by Pech, the Board on 7-0 vote with President Chrastka abstaining, approved a pay raise of 3.5 percent retroactive to January 1, 2009 for Elizabeth Chrastka, Martha Houdek and Becky Spratford, who, as non-union employees, were not covered by salary increases negotiated earlier by AFSCME;
- On a motion by Bambenek, the Board approved the following meetings for review of candidates for the Library Director's position:
Committee of the Whole -- 6 p.m. Monday, July 6 – candidates review in closed session;
Committee of the Whole – 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 8 -- candidates review in closed session;
Special Board Meeting -- Wednesday, July 15 – closed session review followed by possible vote in open session.

Committee Meetings

Search Committee Candidates Review – Saturday, June 20; Monday, June 22; Saturday, June 27.
Search Committee/Staff Panel Candidates Review – Monday, June 29

Adjournment

On a motion by Salinas, the meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Eileen Pech, Secretary