Evanston Public Library
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, April 20, 2005
7:30 p.m.
Library Board Room

Approved May 18, 2005


Members Absent:  Linda DeWoskin

Staff Present:  Neal Ney, Paul Gottschalk, and Kate Todd

Call to Order

President Fischel called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Roothaan seconded,

MSP – Approval of the Minutes of the Library Board meeting held on March 16, 2005, as written.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Youth Services Renovation Project

Library Director, Neal Ney, gave Board members an update on plans regarding the renovation project. Peter and Sharon Exley of Architecture is Fun will present “concept drawings” at the Library on Friday evening, April 22. More “friendraiser” events have been planned to acquaint Evanston residents with the project, including an afternoon presentation by Mr. Ney on May 24th to the residents of Westminster Place, and an evening presentation at the home of Colleen Chappelle on May 26th. Summer events have also been planned.

Mr. Gottschalk reported that Connie Heneghan and Sally Schwarzlose are working on proposals to upgrade the branches using any excess money raised from the sale of the retail space next to North Branch. The space will be sold by sealed bid.

The Library has also been granted a construction grant by the State Library, thanks to the efforts of our State Senator, Jeffrey Schoenberg. While attending an event in
Springfield, President Fischel reported that he met with Senator Schoenberg and was able to thank him personally for his assistance with the construction grant.

**Resolution of Thanks for Jean Perry**

Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Schroeder seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution of thanks for former Board member Jean Perry, who had recently left the Board. (Copy attached.)

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Resolution of Thanks for Book Sale Volunteers**

Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Roothaan seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution of thanks for the Book Sale Volunteers. A framed copy of the resolution will be posted in the Book Sale Room. (Copy attached.)

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**President’s Report**

President Fischel suggested that, since he will be unable to attend the May Trustee’s meeting, the evaluation of the Library Director be postponed to the June meeting. This was agreed.

President Fischel told the Trustees that he had written a response to Alderman Jean-Baptiste’s letter in the *RoundTable*. President Fischel’s letter included information about the Library’s current outreach efforts in West Evanston. It was suggested that Library Board members might meet with new aldermen to acquaint them with Library services, especially outreach services. Trustee Schrodt suggested the Library might sponsor a special day for each ward.

**Discussion of Branch Service Policy and Service to West Evanston**

Since the Board was already debating Agenda Item #8A, discussion continued. Board members discussed at some length library service to west Evanston and the possibility of a West Branch. While the Board is divided about the continuing importance of our existing branches, they are unanimous in their conviction that a third branch would be a mistake. Other library needs are more pressing and would be of more importance to west Evanston residents.

Board members mentioned ideas such as partnering with community groups, social service agencies, and schools. It was noted that the Library is applying for a State Library grant to fund a “community canon” project, a literacy program which would
benefit primarily west Evanston residents. Board members intend to talk to individual members of the City Council about the Library’s youth service renovation project and the Library’s outreach efforts. They hope to learn what other outreach efforts the aldermen consider to be important. The Board will revisit this topic at a future meeting.

Financial Report

Mr. Gottschalk referred Board members to the financial statements for the last fiscal year ending February 28, 2005. He noted that operating expenditures were over budget by approximately $47,000, most of which was due to overages in the Reference and Periodicals accounts. Operating revenue exceeded budget by over $11,000. The Endowment portfolio had a net gain of $55,174 in February.

Library Director’s Report

Mr. Ney referred Trustees to his written report. Trustees again discussed the assault in the Library’s garage. Mr. Ney reported that the car had been recovered, but no arrest had been made. Although this is the only such incident during the last 10 years, Board members are anxious to do whatever possible to ensure patron safety. Security monitors have been instructed to escort patrons if requested, and Mr. Gottschalk will look into the “blue light” program. Security cameras are on the City Council agenda for Monday, April 25.

New Business

Appointment of a Nominating Committee

Board members selected trustees Roothaan, Schrodt, and Terry to serve as the nominating committee for this year. The nominating committee will present a slate of officers at the May meeting. Officers will be elected at the June meeting, and will take office at the July meeting. Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Rosenthal seconded,

MSP – Approval of the Nominating Committee as stated above.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Local Use Fee

Trustees approved maintaining the non-resident fee at $110. Trustee Schroeder moved and Trustee Terry seconded,

MSP – Approval of maintaining the non-resident fee at $110.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.
Materials Selection Policy Review

Board members discussed the Materials Selection Policy, but recommended no changes at this time.

Approval of Change of Date for In-Service Day

Trustees approved changing the date of the Library's in-service day from Monday, August 8th, to Friday, August 12th. The new date is a better time for making the cutover from the DRA Classic software to the new SIRSI software. Trustee Schroeder moved and Trustee Gerson seconded,

MSP – Approval of In-Service date change to August 12, 2005.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library