Members Present: Maidel Cason, Dona Gerson, Brooke Roothaan, Judith Rosenthal, Ellen L. Schrodt, and Marybeth Schroeder

Members Absent: Linda DeWoskin, Jonathan L. Fischel, and Karen Terry

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

Visitors present: Kate Cooper, Northwestern University Medill graduate student

Call to Order

Vice-President Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Rosenthal moved and Trustee Roothaan seconded,

MSP – Approval of the Minutes of the Library Board meeting held on April 20, 2005, as written.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Report of the Nominating Committee

Trustees accepted the report of the nominating committee. The slate of officers for next year is: Marybeth Schroeder, president; Karen Terry, vice-president; Ellen Schrodt, secretary. The election will be held at the June Board meeting, and the officers will take office on July 1st.

Youth Service Area Project Update

Neal Ney and Paul Gottschalk updated Board members on plans for the Youth Service project. Mr. Ney is in the process of completing the State construction grant application. Mr. Gottschalk informed Board members of a $25,000 donation for the project from Frank Foster. Mr. Gottschalk detailed the funds, including income from the Endowment,
which have already been set aside for the project. Board members asked for a simple spreadsheet detailing the funding for the project.

Three “friend raiser” 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; an evening presentation at the home of Colleen Chappelle on May 26th; and an evening event at the Soglin’s in July. Kate Todd will notify Board members of the exact times and addresses for the May events.

Mr. Ney asked Board members to give him final feedback on the draft prospectus by the first week in June. At the June meeting, Trustees will need to approve the prospectus, which will be used for the color brochure.

Reports on Meetings with Aldermen

President Fischel and Vice-President Schroeder will be meeting with Alderman Jean-Baptiste soon. Trustee Schrodt and Trustee Schroeder met with Alderman Holmes. She was very receptive to the needs of the Library and voiced interest in seeing more outreach to those unable to travel to one of the Libraries in town. Trustee Gerson and Trustee Roothaan met with Alderman Hansen. She was excited to hear about the Youth Service Project.

Financial Report

Mr. Gottschalk referred Board members to the financial statements for the two months ending April 30, 2005. Trustees voiced concern over the net loss in the Endowment Fund in March and April. Mr. Gottschalk explained the Fund is well balanced and fairly conservative and usually outperforms the market. Trustee Schroeder suggested that Board members might feel more comfortable if they could see some comparisons or benchmarks regarding our Fund in relation to others.

Library Director’s Report

Mr. Ney referred Trustees to his written report and mentioned the enthusiastic letter about the work of Outreach Librarian Rick Kinnebrew in the last RoundTable issue. Trustees asked about improvements to security in the basement garage. Mr. Gottschalk explained about the panic alarms. Security cameras will soon be installed in the garage area, along with the rest of the Library building. Mr. Ney noted that a webcam will be available soon with pictures of the falcon eggs, which should hatch any day.

New Business

Standards Review

Board members reviewed the Library’s performance on Illinois state library standards. Board members suggested bringing the Library’s low staffing levels to the attention of
the City manager. Trustee Schroeder asked for information regarding ALA and other opportunities for Board members’ continuing education.

**Resolution Authorizing an Application for an Illinois State Library Construction Grant**

Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the Library Director and the Evanston City Manager to submit an application for an Illinois State Library Construction Grant. Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Roothaan seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution authorizing an application for an Illinois State Library Construction Grant.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____________________________________
Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library