Call to Order

President Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. She welcomed Jan Bojda, Head of Children’s Services at the Main Library. Ms. Bojda gave a presentation to the Board about the “Every Child Ready to Read” program, which is an early literacy initiative from the Public Library Association. “Every Child Ready to Read” helps parents learn how to encourage reading potential and literacy readiness in their children from birth to age 5.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Murphy seconded,

MSP – Approval as written of the November 16, 2005 minutes of the Library Board

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Budget FY06-07

Mr. Ney reported on the City Manager’s proposed budget. All staff positions recommended by the Board have been removed from the proposed budget and the recommended inflation increases have been reduced by half. The Board understands that most other City departments faced similar budget restraints. The City Manger has listed closing branch libraries as an option the City Council could consider if it wished to avoid a tax increase. The Board indicated its opposition to any further reduction in Library funding. They are also concerned that funding these new positions had been essentially authorized by the City Council when it approved the Library’s migration to the CCS/SIRSI system last year. Trustee Dona Gerson informed the Board that the
Friends of South Branch would be contacting area aldermen about maintaining branch funding.

Trustees directed the Board president to forward to every alderman the recent Evanston Review article comparing area libraries. The Board believes the associated tables show understaffing and under-funding of library service in Evanston.

**Youth Service Renovation Project Update**

Trustees discussed the goal and plans to raise private funds for the project. They agreed to contact aldermen individually about the Library's youth service renovation project, which is included in the Capital Improvement Plan currently under consideration by the City Council.

**President Schroeder’s Report**

President Schroeder asked for an update on the 2005 Fund for Excellence Campaign. Over $59,000 had been raised to date.

**Financial Report**

Mr. Gottschalk explained the transfers of donated monies from the Gift Fund to the Library operating accounts to pay for purchases of Library materials. He also noted that Library is over budget at this time by $140,000. He explained that these overages are due to changes in City accounting practices regarding merit increases and to increases for salaries due to the CCS migration. There was also some over spending in the purchase of reference materials. Mr. Gottschalk will provide complete quarterly reports to the Trustees on the Library’s Endowment Fund.

**Library Director’s Report**

Mr. Ney noted that his report is missing the CCS/ILL statistics. These should be available next month. Trustees continue to be concerned about the downturn in patron use at North Branch.

**New Business**

**Approval of 2006 Holiday Closing Schedule**

Trustees approved the Library’s holiday closing schedule for 2006. Rather than a single, all-day, In-service Day in 2006, the Library will be closed on two Friday mornings for half-day in-service events. The dates are Friday, April 28th and Friday, October 27th. On both days the Library will open to the public at 1:00 PM. Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Terry seconded,

MSP – Approval of the 2006 Holiday Closing Schedule
Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

City of Evanston Strategic Plan

Trustees reviewed information in the City’s Strategic Plan regarding library service. They were concerned about some objectives, such as extending school library hours, which PLA research had shown to be effective primarily in rural areas.

Approval of Resolution Adopting the NSLS Revised Reciprocal Borrowing Tenets

Trustee Cason moved and Trustee Gerson seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution adopting the North Suburban Library System’s revised reciprocal borrowing tenets.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Staff Commendation

Trustees asked the Library Director to prepare a resolution thanking the staff for all of its extraordinary efforts in managing the migration from one integrated library system to another. The Board will consider the resolution at the February meeting. Trustee Stone offered to bring treats to share with Library staff.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

_____________________________________
Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library