Members Present: Maidel Cason, Dona Gerson, Lynette Murphy, Brooke Roothaan, Ellen L. Schrodt, Marybeth Schroeder, Christopher Stewart, Susan Stone, and Karen Terry

Staff Present: Neal Ney, Paul Gottschalk, and Kate Todd
Rick Kinnebrew, Outreach Librarian

Visitors Present: Amy Wallin

Call to Order

President Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Stewart moved and Trustee Schrodt seconded,
MSP – Approval as written of the April 19, 2006, minutes of the Library Board

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Report by Outreach Librarian

Rick Kinnebrew reported on his work promoting parent and children’s programs in the community. Mr. Kinnebrew will be bringing the Library’s Summer Reading Game to parks and recreation centers this summer. He also announced that he has received a $10,000 grant from the Evanston Community Foundation to fund a pilot program in “educational/play literacy” at the Child Care Center and District 65 Head Start. Board members asked that he come back in the winter with a performance by the Young Evanston Storytellers (YES).

Old Business

Nominating Committee Report

Board members received the report of the nominating committee, chaired by Brooke Roothaan. The recommended slate for election at the Board’s June meeting is:
Youth Service Area Project Update

Mr. Ney reported on the Youth Service Renovation Project. The campaign committee has begun meeting. The first meeting with the architects about construction drawings is scheduled for next week.

Darrow Corners Update

Trustees discussed the possible inclusion of some form of library service in the Darrow Corners project. While Board members want to be supportive of neighborhood literacy efforts, they are concerned that such service be adequately funded and of a high quality. Trustee Stewart objected to “diluting the brand” by calling something a “library” when it clearly is not. Trustee Schroeder pointed out that for what a branch library would cost, the Library could hire both an Early Childhood Specialist and a School Services Librarian, both called for in the Essential Staff Plan. In her opinion these services would have a much greater impact on west Evanston and all of Evanston than another branch. Trustee Gerson noted that, while it is entirely appropriate that the City Council make a policy decision of this nature, it is imperative that the Board makes the funding needs of such a service clear. Trustees agreed to contact individual aldermen prior to the May 22, 2006, Council meeting to explain the need for adequate funding of such a service. Trustee Schroeder is planning to address the Council during citizen comment on May 22.

Benchmarking Data

Due to time constraints, trustees agreed to table further discussion of the benchmarking data until their June meeting.

President Schroeder’s Report

President Schroeder applauded Rick Kinnebrew’s grant from the Evanston Community Foundation (ECF), and was pleased to learn that the new AV equipment for the Community Room had been installed. Funds for the AV project were provided in part by an earlier ECF grant. President Schroeder reported that Blanche Gildin had been honored at a reception last month recognizing her as one of Evanston’s top volunteers.

Financial Report

Mr. Gottschalk noted that the April financial statements were available tonight at each trustee’s place. He reported on last month’s Investment Committee meeting at which some changes to the Endowment portfolio had been decided. He referred trustees to the last page of the March financial statements, which showed how well the Library’s Endowment Fund has been doing, especially by comparison to other benchmarks.
Library Director’s Report

In addition to his written report, Mr. Ney noted that a falcon chick has hatched in the Library nest.

New Business

Standards Review

Trustees reviewed the Library’s performance on the Illinois State Library standards. Mr. Ney stated that Evanston does reasonably well on the standards, except in staffing and governance, the two areas over which the Library Board has no control.

Review of Special Events Policy

Trustees reviewed the Library’s special events policy, and directed staff to prepare revisions to the policy that would increase the fee, limit areas in which food and beverages can be served, possibly require the use of approved caterers, and place additional limits on the moving of equipment and collections. The proposed revisions will be on the agenda for the June meeting.

Staff Demographics

Trustees reviewed a memo from the Director concerning staff demographics.

Executive Session

At 9:30 p.m. the Board of Trustees met in executive session for the purpose of evaluating the performance of the Library Director. A tape of the executive session is attached to the original minutes held at the Evanston Public Library.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library