Evanston Public Library
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, April 18, 2007
7:30 p.m.
Library Board Room

Approved May 16, 2007

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

Members Absent: Maidel Cason, Brooke Roothaan

Visitors Present: Barbara S. Greenberg, Library patron

Staff Present: Neal Ney, Paul Gottschalk, and Kate Todd, Administrative staff
Rick Kinnebrew, Laura Antolin and Martha Meyer, Project LEAP staff

Call to Order

President Schroeder called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Appeal of Library Suspension

Library patron Barbara Greenberg apologized for her behavior and asked the Board to remove or reduce the suspension of her Library privileges. Ms. Greenberg stated that her behavior did not reflect her character, and it was unusual for her to behave in such a manner.

Since Library staff members were waiting to make a presentation to the Board about Project LEAP, Trustees agreed to discuss Ms. Greenberger's appeal at the end of the Board meeting. Ms. Greenberg left the Board meeting at this point.

Report on Project LEAP

Rick Kinnebrew, Laura Antolin and Martha Meyer explained that the Library’s Project LEAP (Literacy Education at Play) is a melding of two programs: Every Child Ready to Read and Play Literacy. LEAP provides pre-school children the opportunity to mimic or play adult roles, and thus to practice early literacy skills. Some early themes have included a pizza kitchen, post office, and a flower shop. LEAP is currently offered at the Child Care Center of Evanston and Head Start, which reaches approximately 240, 3 to 5 year-old children each month. This year, additional funding for Project LEAP includes: a $10,000 start-up grant from the Brenner Family Fund of the Evanston Community Foundation; $600 from Evanston’s Kiwanis Club; and $500 from the Woman’s Club of Evanston. Next year, LEAP hopes to expand by bringing LEAP to District 65 kindergarteners in partnership with the District 65 Educational Foundation.
Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Murphy seconded,

MSP – Approval of the March 21, 2007, minutes of the Library Board.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Youth Service Renovation Project Update

Mr. Ney invited Board members to attend a campaign letter-signing party at Bridget Schroeder’s home at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 26. Ms. Todd will send an email to Trustees reminding them of the date, time and address. Ms. Todd will notify trustees who cannot attend when their letters are ready for their signature.

Mr. Gottschalk reported that the construction is going well. Drywall is almost finished, and much of the painting had been completed. Carpet is expected in mid-May. A visit to the exhibit fabricator is planned. Ms. Todd mentioned that construction progress updates are now on the Library’s website.

Financial Report

Mr. Gottschalk drew Board attention to the year-end statements for FY06-07. The Library’s revenue and expenditures are extremely close to budget. The Investment Committee will meet next week.

Library Director’s Report

Library Director Neal J. Ney announced that he will retire on November 1, 2007 under the City of Evanston’s early retirement incentive. He also drew Board attention to the list of Illinois Library referendums that were voted on in the recent election.

New Business

Appointment of a Nominating Committee

Trustees appointed the following members to serve as this year’s nominating committee: Dona Gerson, Ellen Schrodt, and Susan Stone. The nominating committee will submit a slate of officers at the May Board meeting. The election will be held at the June meeting, and the new officers will take office on July 1, 2007. Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Stewart seconded,

MSP – Approval of a nominating committee consisting of Dona Gerson, Ellen Schrodt, and Susan Stone.
Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Local Use Fee

Trustees approved increasing the non-resident fee from $120 to $125 in accordance with a formula provided by the Illinois State Library. Because of the requirement in state law that people must purchase their non-resident cards from the closest participating library, Evanston is not in a position to sell any non-resident cards. The Library, however, uses this fee for local use cards that are sold to Chicago residents who wish to check out more than the three items at a time permitted by Library policy for Chicago residents. The change will be effective May 1, 2007. Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Stone seconded,

MSP – Approval of increasing the non-resident fee from $120 to $125.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Annual Report

Trustees approved a resolution authorizing the Library Director to submit an annual report to the Illinois State Library as soon as all of the necessary information is available. A copy of the completed annual report will be shared with Board in May. Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Schrodt seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution authorizing the Library Director to submit an annual report to the Illinois State Library as soon as all of the necessary information is available.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Revisions to Materials Selection Policy

Trustees approved some minor editorial changes to the Materials Selection policy. Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Stewart seconded,

MSP – Approval of minor editorial changes to the Materials Selection policy as detailed in Mr. Ney’s April 7, 2007 memo.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Resolution in Opposition to HB 1727

Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Stewart seconded,

MSP – Approval of a resolution opposing House Bill 1727, an Internet filtering measure that includes provisions authorizing citizen lawsuits to enforce the law, $100 a day fines
for libraries found to be in violation, and the possibility of criminal perjury prosecutions of library staff members. (Copy attached.)

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

**Hirshfield Poetry Awards Sunday, May 6, 2007**

President Schroeder reminded the Board of the annual Hirshfield Poetry Awards program on Sunday, May 6, 2007 at 2:00 PM. Vice-president Christopher Stewart will represent the Board at the program in Ms. Schroeder’s absence.

**More New Business**

Trustee Gerson asked that the Board discuss the possibility of a fundraising campaign to support the addition of evening hours at South Branch. This will be scheduled for the May meeting. Mr. Ney pointed out that there was an individual who wished to raise money for North Branch capital improvements as well. Both matters will be discussed at the May meeting.

Trustee Stone asked that the Board discuss what steps could be taken to bring school groups into the Library in the fall after the opening of the remodeled space. This matter will also be on the agenda for the May meeting.

**Appeal of Library Suspension, continued**

Trustees discussed Ms. Greenberg’s appeal of her one-year suspension for her use of abusive and racist language. Library staff explained that Ms. Greenberg’s suspension is usual for removal of a patron displaying this type of disruptive behavior. President Schroeder polled the Board. Trustees agreed to sustain the staff recommendation of a one-year suspension, although Trustees Schroeder and Stone would have preferred reducing the suspension to 9 months. Mr. Ney will notify Ms. Greenberg of this decision.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library