Call to Order

Vice-President Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Citizen Comments

Susan Newman addressed the Board about her concerns regarding Evanston’s branch libraries. Ms. Newman said that she visits North Branch 4 or 5 times a week. She announced the formation of an informal Friends of North Branch group with 140 names, and indicated a willingness to assist the Board in raising funds for the branch. Ms. Newman said that the branch libraries were critical to maintaining Evanston’s uniqueness. The Board asked Mr. Ney to arrange a meeting between the Evanston Library Friends, the Friends of South Branch, and the Friends of North Branch. The Board also invited Ms. Newman to stay for the rest of the meeting, since the Board was to talk about fundraising for the branch libraries.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Gerson moved and Trustee Murphy seconded,

MSP – Approval of the April 18, 2007, minutes of the Library Board.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Report of the Nominating Committee
Board members received the report of the nominating committee, chaired by Dona Gerson. The recommended slate for election at the Board’s June meeting is: President – Marybeth Schroeder; Vice-president – Christopher Stewart; Secretary – Lynette Murphy. The election will take place at the June Board meeting, and the officers will take office on July 1, 2007.

**Youth Service Renovation Project Update**

Mr. Gottschalk reported that the remodeling project was going well. The electrical work is 90% completed. Ceiling tiles have been installed in the teen space and installation has begun in the children’s room. Carpet installation is to begin on Thursday, May 17. The exhibit fabricator will begin work in the spaces on Tuesday, May 22. The general contractor should finish sometime in June. The Board will tour the construction areas again at the June meeting.

Ms. Todd reported that there has been a delay in receiving print materials for the public phase mail campaign for the project. She expects the brochures to arrive next week, and the mailing should be delivered before the end of May. The Library Friends are selling fleece blankets to raise additional funds. We plan to send one additional mailing before the end of June to a list of library users.

**Branch Fundraising**

The Board discussed fundraising for the branch libraries and a memo Mr. Ney had prepared at the Board’s request. Trustee Stewart, who was chairing the meeting, reported that President Schroeder would like to delay full discussion and any decision making until the June meeting when she can be present. Trustee Gerson again argued for the importance of adding evening hours at South Branch, but agreed that it was probably not wise to try to solicit donations for the Library’s operating budget. Mr. Ney restated the major points from his memo – that any fundraising of behalf of the Library should be directed by the Library Board; that the staff would not be in a position to support another fundraising campaign until around May of 2008; and that it would be difficult to raise funds for any branch purpose as long as the branches are perceived to be vulnerable to closing or at the center of controversy. This item will be on the agenda for the June meeting of the Board.

**Classroom Visits to the Library**

Trustees discussed attracting school groups to the Library after the opening of the remodeled spaces, and asked staff to explore the possibility of an “educator’s afternoon” as part of the opening events. Trustees asked for a report back on the cost of such an event at the June meeting, and for the cost of buses for District 65 classes.

**President’s Report**

Vice President Stewart reported that President Schroeder had met with the City Manager about the search for a new Library Director. It was his understanding that the
City would make use of the services of a search firm, that the Board would have an
opportunity to provide input about what they thought the City should look for in a new
Library Director, and that two members of the Board would be members of the search
committee. President Schroeder would like to devote all of a Board meeting or a special
meeting to brainstorming about what to look for in a new Library Director. Mr. Ney was
asked to speak with Ms. Schroeder about the scheduling of this meeting.

Financial Report

Mr. Gottschalk noted that the Library’s Endowment Portfolio is up over 11% from last
year. This compares very well with our 3 benchmarks, as noted on the last page of the
financial statements. About $200,000 will be transferred out of the Endowment Fund to
pay for some of the construction costs from the remodeling project.

Library Director’s Report

Library Director Neal Ney announced that 4 Peregrine falcon chicks hatched last week.
Banding is scheduled for Friday, June 8, 2007.

New Business

Standards Review

The Board reviewed Mr. Ney’s report on the Library’s performance on Illinois State
Library standards. No action was taken on this agenda item.

Approval of Changes to the Services Policy

The Board approved staff recommended changes to the Library’s service policy as set
out in Mr. Ney’s May 8, 2007, memo. The recommended changes were minor bringing
the policy into line with current practice. Trustee Cason moved and Trustee Gerson
seconded,

MSP – Approval of changes to the Services Policy

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Approval of Art Purchase

Trustees approved the purchase of the framed painting “Metamorphosis” by Evanston
artist Peggy Macnamara at a price of $1,500. The purchase is being paid for from the
Edward Johnson Fund for Art in the Library’s Endowment. The painting will be displayed
in the Children’s Room. Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Murphy seconded,

MSP – Approval of the purchase of “Metamorphosis” by Evanston artist Peggy
Macnamara at a price of $1,500.
Passed on a roll call vote. Trustees Murphy, Terry, Cason, Gerson and Schrodt voted in favor of the purchase. Trustees Stone and Stewart voted no.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

______________________________
Catherine A. Todd, Executive Secretary
Evanston Public Library