Evanston Public Library
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, June 18, 2008
7:30 p.m.
Library Board Room

Members Present: Maidel Cason, Susan Newman, Brooke Roothaan, Ellen Schrodt, Christopher Stewart, Susan Stone, and Karen Terry

Members Absent: Dona Gerson and Lynette Murphy

Staff Present: Mary Johns, Library Director, Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager, Jan Bojda, Head of Children’s Services

Guest Present: Joey Rodger, Gossage Sager Associates

Call to Order

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

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Terry moved and Trustee Cason seconded,

MSP – Approval of the May 21, 2008, minutes of the Library Board.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

Open Meetings Act

President Stewart reviewed a summary of the Illinois Open Meetings Act prepared by the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Evanston. The Library Board is required to follow the provisions of the Act if three or more members discuss public business whether in person, by phone or electronically.

Planning Process Update

Joey Rodger discussed the library user exit survey that will help the staff and Board better understand why people use the Library and what they actually do during their visit. The survey will be conducted at all three library locations in July.

Review of Food and Beverage Policy
The Board supported Director Johns’ proposal to permit food and beverage consumption in the lobby adjacent to the Most Wanted collection. Seating will be installed in this area.

Art Committee Update

Susan Stone reported that the Art Committee had considered several pieces by Hispanic artists but had not come to a consensus. The committee reaffirmed the desire to keep the Friedberg Storytelling Room free from art that might distract young patrons from listening attentively to the storyteller.

Financial Reports

Mr. Gottschalk reported that Sara Busch made a generous bequest of $5,000 to the Endowment for the Evanston public Library. This gift will help support the Hirshfield Poetry Awards in perpetuity. Mrs. Busch was Jo-Anne Hirshfield’s aunt.

Library Director’s Report

Ms. Johns reported on the outcome of a patron’s request to re-consider the book “In the Name of God”. The patron believes this book to be inappropriate for the Library’s collection because it misrepresents Syrian youth, stereotypes Muslims and gives an unrealistic view of Damascus. Per Board policy, a staff committee read and reviewed the book and decided it met the Library’s collection development criteria and, therefore, was an appropriate book for the collection.

New Business

Going Green

In the future, Library Board packets will be distributed electronically.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager
Evanston Public Library