Members Present: Gail Bush, Susan Newman, Susan Stone and Karen Terry

Members Absent: Dona Gerson, Diane Jacobi, Lynette Murphy, Brooke Roothaan, Christopher Stewart

Staff Present: Mary Johns, Library Director; Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager.

Guests Present: Alice Conner, Mike Stern, Karl Banach and John Harris from Koenig & Strey Real Estate.

The guests from Koenig & Strey Realtors presented Karen Terry with a $2,775 check that will be used to purchase books for the North and South Branches. The Library Board expressed their gratitude for this generous gift.

Call to Order

Trustee Terry called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes

Trustee Stone asked that the November minutes be amended to include her request to review the signage for the collections in the Children’s Room.

Information

Director Mary Johns announced that Diane Allen Jacobi has been appointed to the Library Board.

Old Business

Library Friends Update

Mary Johns reported that the Board of the Evanston Library Friends voted to cease operations due to a lack of active members. The Library will continue to recruit volunteers for programming, such as Family Night, formerly sponsored by the Friends. The remaining funds held by the Friends will be transferred to the Library to support family programs. Trustee Newman asked for a report on the Library’s programs, including attendance.
Fund for Excellence Update

Karen Terry reported that the Fund for Excellence Campaign exceeded the campaign goal. The Board is very grateful to the campaign volunteers and staff member Beth McGuire, who has done an excellent job managing the Fund for Excellence Campaign.

Branch Renovation Update

Paul Gottschalk reported that the schematic design phase of the renovation project has been completed and initial costs estimates have been received. Staff is working to refine the scope of the project ensure the renovations will be completed within budget.

President’s Report

In Christopher Stewart’s absence, Karen Terry informed the Board about the North Suburban Library System’s legislative day, an excellent opportunity to share information with state legislators.

Financial Reports

Paul Gottschalk reviewed the financial report through December. Expenditures will be within budget for the fiscal year. The Investment Committee voted to sell two US Treasury Notes maturing in 2010 and 2011, and purchase three, longer-term Treasury Inflation Protected Securities (TIPS).

Library Director’s Report

Mary Johns reported that the “food for fines” program will become a food drive at all three locations to support Evanston residents in need.

The Barack Obama quilt project has been a great success, gaining media exposure on the local NPR station. There are 24 quilts on display throughout the Library. Seventy-two people viewed the presidential inauguration in the Community Meeting Room.

Staff is developing a partnership with the Chicago Sky professional women’s basketball team.

Poet Janet Wong will judge the annual Hirshfield Poetry Awards. The program is scheduled for April 19th.

The library has three nominations at the annual North Suburban Library System Awards Ceremony. Young Adult Librarian Christie Chandler-Stahl has been nominated for Staff Member of the Year for her outstanding work with young adults. The Literacy Education at Play (LEAP) program has been nominated for Innovation of the Year and the Library has an entry in Video of the Year for the Loft Workout video.
Ms. Johns informed the Board of a City spending freeze and hiring freeze of selected positions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager
Evanston Public Library