Call to Order
Christopher Stewart called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes
Trustee Roothaan moved and Trustee Terry seconded,

MSP – Approval of the November 19, 2008 and January 21, 2009 minutes of the Library Board.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Old Business

North Suburban Library System Awards
Mary Johns reported that the Library had three Nominations for NSLS awards. Young Adult Librarian Christie Chandler-Stahl has been nominated for Staff Member of the Year for her outstanding work with Evanston teens; the LEAP (Literacy Education at Play) program led by Laura Antolin, Martha Meyer and Rick Kinnebrew has been nominated for the Innovation Award; and the Loft is featured in a special category for creative, library-produced videos. The awards ceremony will be held on March 20th.

Fund for Excellence Update
Mary Johns reported that the Fund for Excellence Campaign has raised $74,600 to date. All of these funds will support the Library’s collections.

Branch Renovation Update
Mary Johns reported that work on the branch renovation project has paused because the sale of 2022 Central Street will not be completed. Staff is exploring several alternatives to complete the project and will provide a report to the Board at the April meeting.

Planning Process Update
Additional work is required to complete the analysis of the data from the user survey. Results of the survey will be reviewed by the Library Board in April.

President's Report

Christopher Stewart thanked Mary Johns for helping to organize the mayoral and aldermanic candidate forums held at the Library.

Christopher Stewart read a draft of a letter prepared by Dona Gerson. The letter highlights the exceptional value of library services in Evanston. Discussion will continue with Dona Gerson at the April meeting.

Susan Stone discussed the potential of renting the storytelling room for children’s events, such as birthday parties. This could be an opportunity to attract new audiences to the Library and increase revenue. Mary Johns will consult staff and develop a proposal for Board consideration in April.

Financial Reports

Paul Gottschalk reviewed the financial report through January. Expenditures will be within budget and revenues will modestly exceed budget for the fiscal year.

Library Director’s Report

Mary Johns described the recent re-organization of library operations with the intent of using staff as creatively and effectively as possible. The Reader’s Services division and the Reference Services & Periodicals division have been combined into Adult Services with Lesley Williams as the head of the department. David Jordan is the Virtual Services Librarian in charge of our on-line resources and periodicals. The position of Head of Reader’s Services has been eliminated and two part-time Reader’s Advisors have been added to boost public services. Interviews for the full-time position in Administration were completed but the job offer is on hold pending discussions on the City’s tight budget situation.

Signage improvements will be discussed at the March meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager
Evanston Public Library