
Members Absent:  Lynette Murphy, Susan Newman, Christopher Stewart.

Staff Present:  Mary Johns, Library Director; Christie Chandler-Stahl, Young Adult Librarian; Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager.

Guest Present:  none.

Call to Order
Karen Terry called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes
Dona Gerson moved and Brooke Roothaan seconded,

MSP – Approval of the September 16, 2009 minutes of the Library Board.

Passed by acclamation.

Presentation – Introduction to Young Adult Services
Christie Chandler-Stahl, the Young Adult Librarian, described the broad array of library services and programs designed to attract Evanston teens to reading. The staff in The Loft is reaching out in many new ways to connect and build relationships with teens. Among many other things, teens are involved in the Teen Advisory Board, summer theater program, homework help, college admission assistance, gaming, clothing design, author visits, and video production. Partnerships have been developed with a wide range of organizations throughout the community. The Library Board is very appreciative of the creative work performed by Ms. Chandler-Stahl and her staff.

Old Business

Fund for Excellence
Dona Gerson reported that the Fund for Excellence is well underway. Appeal letters are being prepared and the first set will be mailed this week.

President’s Report
Karen Terry thanked the Board for their advocacy of the “Save Illinois Libraries” campaign asking state legislators to pledge their support for adequate funding of the library systems and public libraries.
Financial Reports
Paul Gottschalk reported that the Endowment Investment Committee voted to make two changes to the portfolio. Staff will purchase $60,000 of iShares Silver Trust ETF (symbol SLV) and invest $10,000 per month for 12 months on the first of the month in the Vanguard S&P 500 Index Fund.

The operating budget is $141,000 under budget year to date. There are fifteen vacancies at this time. A spending and hiring freeze has been implemented.

Library Director’s Report
Mary Johns reported on the installation of the “Imaginary Library” exhibit of children’s book illustrations. There will be an open house on November 15th for organizations involved with children’s literature throughout the Chicago area.

Staff expects annual circulation to exceed one million items for the first time ever in FY2009-10.

City staff projects a $4,000,000 General Fund budget deficit in FY2009-10 that will be addressed by city-wide expenditure reductions and use of fund reserves. The preliminary FY2010-11 budget deficit is $8,000,000. Public discussions on spending reductions and potential revenue increases will begin in November. Layoffs are expected beginning in FY2010-11.

The City’s proposed FY2010-11 Capital Improvement Plan includes the replacement of the air conditioning chillers and renovation of the North Branch. The City Council will be considering these projects as part of the budget process. Dona Gerson expressed her frustration at the extremely long time it has taken to address the branch renovation project.

City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz spoke, asked questions and listened at Staff Development Day on October 16th.

Staff members Marie Nowak and Linda Balla have organized a third shipment of donated books to the Tutwiler (MS) Public Library.

Jill Skwerski has been hired as the full-time Circulation Supervisor and Connie Heneghan has been hired as the full-time Manager of the North and South Branches.

Adjournment
The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager
Evanston Public Library