Evanston Public Library
Board of Trustees
Wednesday, March 17, 2010
7:30 p.m.
Library Board Room

Members Present: Diane Allen Jacobi, Gail Bush, Lynette Murphy, Brooke Roothaan, Christopher Stewart, Susan Stone and Karen Terry.

Members Absent: Dona Gerson, Susan Newman

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

Guests Present: Trish Stieglitz, Michael Tannen

Call to Order
Karen Terry called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

Comments from Citizens
Michael Tannen introduced himself as a Board member of the Evanston Public Library Friends (EPLF). He described the substantial amount of work recently performed by volunteers in support of the Library. Nearly 500 people have become members of the Friends in the past two weeks. EPLF wants to hold a fundraising gala at the Library in May and Tannen asked the Board if they would waive the special event fee considering that the funds raised will benefit the Library. Tannen stated that EPLF needs the support of the Library Board and the Board needs the support of EPLF.

Trish Stieglitz spoke about the substantial organizational efforts of the EPLF; they’ve re-organized as a 501c3 non-profit and have begun to accept contributions. There have been extensive discussions about planning for the delivery of library services throughout the community and what it will take to keep the branches open from September 2010 through March 2011 and beyond. EPLF has set a very ambitious fundraising goal to support Library outreach.

Approval of the Minutes
Christopher Stewart moved and Gail Bush seconded,

MSP – Approval of the February 18, 2010 minutes of the Library Board.

Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Information
Mary Johns announced that Administration staff member Beth McGuire gave birth to a healthy daughter named Jillian.
Old Business
Task Force on Sustainable Funding
Karen Terry described the work of the Library’s Task Force on Sustainable Funding. The Task Force is preparing a final report on the potential funding options and will make a written recommendation to the Library Board at their April meeting. Gail Bush requested that the Board obtain professional library law advice if necessary and that she would want to consider the Library Director’s perspective on the recommendation from the Task Force. Several Board members stressed the importance of making a fully informed decision on long-term funding options.

President’s Report
- Karen Terry reported that the FY2010-11 budget was approved by Council.
- The EPLF have planned many activities and their fundraising drive is underway.
- Karen Terry spoke of the need to define what the future of the Evanston Public Library will look like and the Board’s responsibility in promoting that vision with a clear voice. She sees the Library as striving towards being excellent, economical and equitable for all Evanston citizens.

Financial Report
Paul Gottschalk reported that final expenditures for services and materials received in FY09-10 are being entered into the financial system and therefore the year end financial statements will be available at the April meeting.

Director’s Report
- Mary Johns was pleased to announce that the Childcare Network of Evanston honored the Library for its early childhood literacy efforts.
- Young library users made a Teen Tech Week presentation before the City Council. The theme was “learn, create, share”.
- Many activities are planned for National Library Week, including library card registration throughout the community.
- The Police Department’s Problem Solving Team has had a more frequent presence in the Main Library, working with staff to create a positive environment for everyone.
- Several vacant positions have been advertised. These are necessary customer service positions will be filled as soon as possible.

New Business
ReelTime Proposal
Karen Terry introduced the request from the ReelTime Film and Video Forum for $4,000 of funding from the Library to continue to present independent films. The Library has hosted and provided support (both funding and in-kind) for ReelTime since its inception in 1999.

Gail Bush moved and Susan Stone seconded,

MSP – Approve the use of $4,000 of endowment funds to support the ReelTime Film Forum.
Susan Stone expressed her appreciation that the Library provides unique programming alternatives such as ReelTime. She asked for the number of people attending the film screenings and circulation statistics for the videos purchased through the program. The funds would be used for administrative support, honoraria for the speakers and publicity. Gail Bush requested that this program support be considered in context with the rest of the Library’s programming. Christopher Stewart asked for more information about ReelTime, including usage statistics. Brooke Roothaan and Diane Allen-Jacobi volunteered to meet with Ines Sommer of ReelTime and report back to the Board. The Board voted to table the motion until further information is provided.

**Friends Update**

Trish Stieglitz explained that the Friends have a much broader mission than simply trying to keep the branch libraries open. The EPLF wants to work with the Library to support the provision of excellent library services throughout the community. In addition, EPLF is working hard to raise funds so that the branches will continue to provide neighborhood services after August 31st.

Brooke Roothaan moved and Lynette Murphy seconded,

MSP – Approve waiving the event fee for a fundraising event by the Evanston Public Library Friends.

Passed on a voice vote.

**Nominating Committee**

Karen Terry appointed Brooke Roothaan to chair the Nominating Committee. The full Nominating Committee will be appointed at the April meeting. At the May meeting, the slate of officers will be presented and the Board officers will be elected at the June meeting.

**North Suburban Library System (NSLS) Representative**

Christopher Stewart will continue to be the Library’s NSLS representative.

**Evanston Public Library Friends Liaison**

Dona Gerson has agreed to be the Board liaison with the Evanston Public Library Friends.

**Library Director Evaluation**

Karen Terry distributed the performance evaluation forms for the Library Director. Board members were asked to complete and return the forms to Karen Terry by March 31st.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Gottschalk, Administrative Services Manager
Evanston Public Library