



## **MEETING MINUTES**

### **EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, January 11, 2012

6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave, Friedberg Storytelling Room

Members Present: Diane Allen, Sharon Arceneaux, Sergio de los Reyes, Benjamin Schapiro, Leora Siegel, Sandra Smith, Michael Tannen

Members Absent: Susan Newman, Margaret Lurie

Parliamentarian Present: Joan Bundley

Staff Present: Donna Dziedzic, Karen Hansen, Paul Gottschalk, Beth McGuire

Presiding Member: Sharon Arceneaux, President

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### **CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum was present and President Arceneaux called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

### **OATH OF OFFICE**

Trustee Leora Siegel was given the oath of office by President Arceneaux.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **Consideration of Appeal of Suspension of Robert Huston**

In a memo to the Board, Trustee Tannen had recommended ending Robert Huston's suspension on January 15<sup>th</sup> (from February 4<sup>th</sup>) under the condition that Mr. Huston conduct himself appropriately in the Library. The recommendation had been made based on what had appeared to have been remorse that Mr. Huston had expressed when he had made his formal presentation of his appeal to the Board. Mr. Huston was advised that the Board could simply announce its decision without discussion, but in the name of transparency, the Board would talk about its decision publicly. Mr. Huston was further advised that the evidence was closed because he had already presented his appeal to the Board orally at a prior Board meeting and in writing. Nonetheless, Mr. Huston continued to argue the illegitimacy and unconstitutionality of his suspension. The Board also learned that earlier in the week, Mr. Huston had sent an email to Board President Arceneaux, with a subject reference in the re: section to cancer. In the email, Mr. Huston asserted that the Board's actions amounted to an *ex post facto* law. Trustee Tannen commented that a board's suspension was no such thing and that his reference to cancer in his email to Trustee Arceneaux was highly inappropriate. Mr. Huston continued to state that he believed he was being punished without due process. Trustee Tannen said that the Library staff has the authority to suspend people's library privileges and the suspension was legitimate. The Board voted unanimously to uphold the suspension of Mr. Huston until February 4<sup>th</sup>.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

The Minutes of the regular Board Meeting of October 26, 2011 were approved by a voice vote of the Trustees.

The Minutes of the regular Board Meeting of November 9, 2011 were approved by a voice vote of the Trustees.

The Minutes of the special Board Meeting of December 1, 2011 were approved by a voice vote of the Trustees.

### **CITIZEN COMMENT**

Marcia Mahoney described an initiative of the Library Friends and Family Focus to refurbish the library at the Weissbord-Holmes Center to support children's literacy. She encouraged volunteer support.

### **STAFF REPORTS**

#### **"Mission Impossible" and MyMediaMall**

Adult Services Librarian Karen Hansen presented information on the successful "Mission Impossible" book discussion group. Ms. Hansen developed the initiative of having a year-long discussion of a long, challenging book. Last year's discussion of *Ulysses* by James Joyce was very popular and successful. Ms. Hansen said that the initiative was one of her most rewarding professional experiences. Over 160 people are currently reading and discussing *War and Peace*. Ms. Hansen also discussed the growing use of the on-line collections available through MyMediaMall. The number of items checked out and users has doubled in the past year. Much of this growth can be attributed to the change by Amazon to permit library downloads to a Kindle. Trustees congratulated Ms. Hansen for her hard work and dedication and commented that her colleagues should regularly update the Board about their innovative initiatives.

#### **Administrative Services Update**

Paul Gottschalk reported that 26 people had applied for the Library Director position. The Library Fund was set-up effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Fund for Excellence Campaign was very successful thanks to Chair Margaret Lurie, the campaign team and Beth McGuire. Campaign income was up 32% over 2010. Development of specific, measureable objectives for the strategic plan is underway.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Materials Selection Policy**

Paul Gottschalk discussed revisions to the Materials Selection Policy. Connie Heneghan, Jan Bojda and Lesley Williams worked on the revision. The collection development librarians use professional, reliable resources for selecting materials for the collection. There are database licenses that the Library acquires therefore the Library is not able to retain the information when the license is not renewed. Weeding outdated materials from the collection is a critical part of collection management. The policy relating to re-evaluation of library material was also discussed. The policy is transparent and vests discretion and review in the hands of professional library staff, thus obviating the need for the Board to micro-manage disputes patrons might have with the selection of materials.

**Evanston 150 “The More You Know” Goal**

Paul Gottschalk recommended that the Board commit to participating on the Evanston 150 goal of creating literacy centers. He also suggested that Board members be appointed to the work group.

Michael Tannen moved, Diane Allen seconded a motion to support Library participation in the Evanston 150 “The More You Know” goal and the appointment of two Board members to the work group. Passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Sharon Arceneaux appointed Leora Siegel and Benjamin Schapiro to the Evanston 150 project.

**Library Advocacy**

Trustees Allen and Tannen strongly encouraged Board members to better communicate with City Council members. This can be accomplished informally and by attending Ward meetings. Both Trustees urged Board members to read the Urban Libraries Council’s monograph, “Partners for the Future: Public Libraries and Local Governments Creating Sustainable Communities.” Trustee Siegel suggested that Board members attend the annual Illinois Library Association Legislative Breakfast scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael Tannen, Secretary  
Evanston Public Library Board of Trustees

**THE NEXT REGULAR LIBRARY BOARD MEETING WILL BE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15<sup>th</sup> AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM OF THE MAIN LIBRARY**