



MEETING MINUTES
EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Wednesday, August 1, 2012
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Community Meeting Room

Members Present: Diane Allen, Tori Foreman, Susan Newman, Benjamin Schapiro, Leora Siegel, Sandra Smith, Michael Tannen

Members Absent: Sergio de los Reyes, Margaret Lurie

Staff Present: Karen Danczak Lyons, Marianthi Thanopoulos, Paul Gottschalk

Presiding Member: Benjamin Schapiro, President

CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM

A quorum was present and President Schapiro called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Jill Schacter, Vice-President of the Library Friends, expressed support for the Board and its funding process.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

Karen Danczak Lyons announced that Marcy Jenkins has been hired as the Library's Development Assistant.

The Summer Reading Game has experienced a 20% increase in participation. This success is attributed to improved marketing and a weak economy (more families are spending more time at home for the summer). 70% of children who sign up play at least one time.

The Joint Committee on Library Governance is scheduled to have its first meeting on August 14th.

Karen Danczak Lyons will be participating in "My Evanston, My Neighbors" a community-wide dialogue on race.

Karen Danczak Lyons invited the Board and the public to attend the Teen Loft's performance of "The Giver", a play staged and performed by teens.

NEW BUSINESS

Presentation on Proposed FY2013 Budget

Karen Danczak Lyons hopes that the Board and staff think of this budget process and planning as a multi-year service approach. The Library needs to expand our

fundraising. In terms of fundraising and programming, the leadership of the Friends could help promote our mission. Volunteers will be the key to this success. We just don't have enough staff, even if we increase staff hours.

Paul Gottschalk presented assumptions and projections on the main sources of proposed FY2013 revenues. Local property taxes represent 87% of the Library's revenue. There are two sources of State funding - the Personal Property Replacement Tax of \$50,200 and the State Per Capita Grant of \$76,300.

Library generated revenues include fines and fees, meeting room rentals, copy/print charges, material replacement charges and rental income.

Michael Tannen said we don't want to create an environment that's unwelcoming for people if they have outstanding fines, etc. Gottschalk said that we are sensitive to the effect fines have children's library use and do not want any fines to prevent that child from being allowed to check out books. We have gone to schools and have waived fines.

Tori Foreman said the term "fine" is so punitive. Can we perhaps call it 'renting' material? Benjamin Schapiro said that we are already loaning the materials, so perhaps changing the name would be useful so we avoid create a punitive environment. Gottschalk said that there have been discussions about not charging fines altogether.

For renting Library space, Susan Newman suggested that perhaps we can look at renting the Library after-hours (Friday evenings, for instance, or the Children's Room). The Finance Committee can explore this further.

Gottschalk is recommending development income be increased by 12%. This includes the transfer from the Endowment, book sales and the Fund for Excellence. Benjamin Schapiro asked if we can take more out of the Endowment than we earn in the future. Gottschalk said that during the financial crisis, income was not taken from the Endowment. It would be the Board's decision how much to take out (consistent with Board policy). Schapiro asked to see Endowment earnings over the last five years. Gottschalk will provide this information at a future meeting.

Karen Danczak Lyons said that staff and Board members have discussed the notion of forgoing DVD revenue in order to provide more services. Evanston is one of very few libraries that charge for DVDs. Libraries that have eliminated DVD fees have found that DVD fine income substantially replaces DVD fee income since more DVD are circulated.

Adjournment

Motion by Michael Tannen, second by Leora Siegel to adjourn. Passed on a voice vote.

President Schapiro adjourned the regular meeting at 7:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael M. Tannen, Secretary