Members Present: Diane Allen, Sergio de los Reyes, Margaret Lurie, Susan Newman, Michael Tannen, Benjamin Schapiro, Leora Siegel, and Sandra Smith

Members Absent: Tori Foreman

Staff: Karen Danczak Lyons, Marcy Jenkins, 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 6:36 pm.

CITIZEN COMMENT

Marcia Mahoney, director of the Mighty Twig/Friends showed a picture of 22 strollers lined up outside the Twig today, and reported that 47 children attended the program. She asserted that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to Evanston’s citizens to offer services, and encouraged them to believe that it is possible to expand neighborhood services with great success.

Dan McAndrew – a teacher at Park School, which offers self-contained special ed classes for 18-21-year old students spoke about how the school used the EPL South Branch for 2 years for community training on crossing the street, etc. McAndrew has continued the community outings to the Twig every Tuesday where the students learn to sit to listen to stories. They also go to the Main Library for story hours. The importance of the outings and destination cannot be put in words --- the students look forward to going to the library all week.

Dickelle Fonda – spoke in favor of a neighborhood library in west Evanston and on behalf of the Director of the Heartwood Center in support of the library. The Center has had 50-60 young people who have learned to meditate there, and the program director hopes to have a permanent community center library at Dempster/Dodge.

INFORMATION/COMMUNICATIONS

Director Danczak Lyons shared a presentation made earlier this week to Evanston senior staff highlighting recent and upcoming library events and accomplishments of note, including:

- The launch of this year’s “Mission Impossible” challenge to read Flannery O’Connor’s Complete Stories, with over 110 people attending the introductory
lecture August 27th in the Community Room, and reading groups facilitated by EPL librarians to run for the next 3 months (sign ups are still available online or by calling the Library.)

- Summer 2012 program for training kindergartners in reading…. Every child ready for kindergarten.

- Book Buddies – Northwestern students reading to children on Fridays at the library.

- Small workshops including two held for high school students learning tips for critiquing college application essays and writing in general.

- Project Excite – literacy, learning, and bike repair – each participant who completed the course got a new bike at the end of the program.

- Upcoming Excel computer training at North Branch on Saturdays, Sept 8 and 15.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
Karen Danczak Lyons reported additional news, including:

- She made a presentation to Lighthouse Rotary Club and began partnership which allows new book donations to our collection in honor of speakers at their meetings.

- Technical Services Manager Evelyn Kaehler has accepted a position with Glenview Public Library. She has been with EPL for almost 12 years and has been in charge of our technical services division and the major re-organization of the department.

- The Director will be traveling to Springfield next week to attend Illinois State Library Advisory Council.

- Ms. Danczak Lyons has also been selected by ALA President Maureen Sullivan to advise her on the creation of a leadership development program for ALA members.

BOARD REPORTS
Facilities Committee - the new committee, chaired by Trustee Sergio de los Reyes, held its introductory meeting with Trustee de los Reyes, Trustee Schapiro, Director Danczak Lyons, and Administrative Services Manager Paul Gottschalk attending. They discussed the Library’s capital improvement plan. The first formal meeting of the committee will be Sept 10th, and the group will meet thereafter on quarterly basis with the following meeting to be scheduled in December.
Finance Committee - Chair Trustee Leora Siegel introduced Karen Danczak Lyons’ presentation of proposed service expansions and financial considerations for the 2013 budget.

Introduction – the library transition planning continues as the board and staff explore ways to expand neighborhood services and financing. Depending on the definitions of programs and needs, space decisions will need to be made. Context of decisions – a lot of emotions, financial, high goals. Need to have tough conversations to get buy-in to move forward.

Proposed budget issues include interest in:

- Continuing operations at the North Branch as an anchor in that community, open 33 hours/week.
- Partnering with EPL Friends in some manner to raise funds for both collections and neighborhood services – with partnership needs on both sides to be defined. Possibility exists to expand the Library’s Fund For Excellence to include neighborhood services.
- Staff recommends renaming The Mighty Twig as the Chicago/Main Library and offering expanded services from the Library, including staff support, book and materials holds, and additional adult and children’s programs.
- Exploring additional sources of funds including grant opportunities and fundraising.
- Continuing conversations and analysis regarding future expansion of services at neighborhood locations including Dempster/Dodge. More information is being collected via a community survey of needs and interests in specific West side services.
- Creating structured partnership agreements with other agencies to clarify roles, responsibilities, metrics and outcomes.
- Looking at other lending library options, including vending machines in other locations.

Specific 2013 Budget Opportunities

- Chicago/Main – 38 hours/week – 47 weeks for staffing $47,000. Currently the Friends have raised funds to cover the rent – going forward, in partnership – would Friends continue to raise funds to support the rent? As well as support the library operations part of the expanded services projected in the partners.

May be able to get existing Library staff to go from 20 to 28 hours/week to cover the hours needed to staff at Chicago/Main.
• Need to get agreement on the reasonable expectations for the expanded services for the west side or any other locations, and to agree on keys to a successful implementation. Can’t compare service in west Evanston with the Twig’s continuation of the South Branch – new neighborhood with immigrants and others. Dempster/Dodge location came with Evanston 150.

The Director asked for permission to continue exploration of possible locations. Currently there are no funds for a West Side expansion assumed to come from taxpayer support, and it is unrealistic to expect the Library to do much more than explore funding and service models for the future.

Questions posed

$40,000 for Chicago/Main staffing in 2013 – in the base budget? No.

Will Chicago/Main be able to have library materials in circulation? Yes. And what about the funding for the rent? Through fundraising.

For remainder of 2012, no additional staffing included in current 2012 budget, if the partnership moves forward with the Friends, $14,400 in incremental EPL 2012 spending could be incurred.

Trustee Tannen suggested that each trustee voice their preliminary opinions about whether EPL should expand services at the Chicago/Main location.

Trustee Allen questioned whether Main and Chicago was a good location for an EPL neighborhood presence. Trustee Schapiro said that current trends in public library literature do not support neighborhood spaces which amount to warehouses for books.

Trustees Newman, Lurie, Smith, Siegel, Tannen, and De LosReyes spoke in support of moving forward in support of the location. Several of these trustees commented that Main/Chicago was a good location, given its proximity to two train stations, in the heart of a commercial district, within walking distance of several public schools, and close to the former South Branch at Lee and Chicago. Several trustees commented that the Mighty Twig, as presently constituted, was an airy, innovative, and exciting neighborhood presence, and that volunteerism shown by EPLF if running that facility should be embraced by EPL.

Two very preliminary options for space at Dempster/Dodge -- Options A and B projections differ due to the different square footage and degree of finish of the spaces.

Trustee Tannen expressed a potential interest in expanding EPL services at Dempster/Dodge.

Motions
1. Leora Siegel moved that the Board authorize the Library Director to create an agreement to work with EPL Friends in fundraising and neighborhood services. Passed unanimously by voice vote.

2. Leora Siegel moved to authorize the Library Director to continue to investigate West Evanston library services for the board's consideration.

   Ms. Danczak Lyons mentioned that the budget can include designated "placeholders" as provisions for additional expenses if funding/grants are available, in which case the Board can then authorize 2013 expenses in those areas.

   Trustee Allen moved to amend to authorize the Director to pursue services throughout Evanston on an equitable basis. Trustee de los Reyes voiced interest in passing 2013 budget and then taking a broader review of Evanston for the 2014 budget. Allen’s amendment failed.

   Motion passed unanimously.

3. Motion by Leora Siegel to authorize the Director to identify costs of EPL to operate the Chicago/Main location, for full or partial funding, in 2013 budget. Passed unanimously.

Follow up for next meeting

As part of the EPL/Friends planning, Trustee Tannen asked for how many and where books are distributed throughout Evanston by Friends and Library. Director Danczak Lyons and Marcia Mahoney agreed to provide counts of books distributed and locations where book distributions are made, although not specifics by location, and Director Danczak Lyons also will provide information on library card distribution across the city.

ADJOURNMENT Susan Smith moved to adjourn the meeting, Susan Newman seconded the motion, and motion passed on a voice vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael M. Tannen, Secretary