

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

October 21, 2009

6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Danna Wood Webb who presided called the meeting to order at 6:55 pm.

Present were: Millie Burns, Susan Capeci, Chris Hansen, Julie Mills Worthey and Arlene Roberts Grant, Trustees.

Also present were: Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President; Cheryl Thomas; Library Staff; Scott Sheron, Library Intern; Opal Brown Lindsay, Director; Willie Lou Gayles, Chief Account Clerk and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of September 16, 2009 were adopted as read.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Cheryl Thomas raised questions about the settlement of the CSEA contract and ongoing negotiations. Chris Hansen stated that the workers have union representation at the bargaining table and that the contract is not stuck over salary increases. He cautioned that the money for increases may not be in next year's contract.

LOCAL HISTORY ROOM:

Library Intern, Scott Sheron updated the board on the progress in the local history room with a tour of the room and a written presentation.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board President, Danna Wood-Webb has met with the City Council and the Mayor's representative regarding the FY 2010 Budget. A formal letter must be written requesting a report on the library's capital funds.

FRIEND'S REPORT:

Karen Preuss and Gary Newman spoke at the annual Friends of the Library meeting on October 17, 2009. The next Book and Bake sale will be on November 13 and 14, 2009.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Library Director, Opal Brown Lindsay reported the following:

The Mount Vernon Business Expo was a great success and the library got good exposure. The Chamber of Commerce has asked the library to assist in publicity for their gala.

At the Business Expo luncheon Frank Fraley gave a speech in support of the library.

Mrs. Lindsay has received complimentary letters about the bookmobile and community services. There were also letters concerning computer workshops and services.

Budget meetings continue and the city council has received copies of the sample sheets of the library budget.

Assistant Director Karen Preuss spoke about various programming that is currently taking place in the library.

The security staff has been made aware of new items such as laptops that are being made accessible to the public.

DPW has chosen a contractor for the library window facade. Issues with prior payments to the company must be resolved before the work can begin.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The library is awaiting Civil Service approval on the position of Business Manager to replace Mrs. Gayles in the Business Office.

A review of the Con Edison bills and the bills for custodial contracts and supplies will be reviewed. The current outstanding Con Edison bill has been resolved. Con Edison has issued an extended payment plan for the library.

The September 2009 Bills and Payrolls totaling \$271,531.95 properly certified by the Director and reviewed by Danna Wood-Webb and Arlene Roberts-Grant were approved by the Board of Trustees and requested paid.

The checks are numbered #019639-019684 (payrolls), #55976-56011 (payrolls, petty cash), and #030377-030449 (bills).

REMARKS OF THE TRUSTEES:

Trustee, Millie Burns spoke about the exhibition that was coming to Marymount College in February. The exhibit features children's book illustrators. Ms. Burns suggested that perhaps she could work on an exhibition with the Mount Vernon Public Library.

OLD BUSINESS:

Issues of library governance were discussed. Library Development Specialist Lisa Areford recently visited the library and is willing to meet with the trustee board regarding the governance issue.

Gary Newman explained the history of the small cities school district library and the cities attempts to make the library a municipal library, which included introducing legislation to change the library to municipal.

He explained that the union was dubious about the library becoming a school district library, since this would require a tax increase with no agreement by the city to decrease its taxes to offset the amount.

In the past the board of regents has rejected any notion that the library could become a municipal library.

It was questioned if the library became a municipality how this would affect its central library status and what the library's status would be among all of the other city departments.

It is felt that the new board members need to see the presentation on library governance. Also the board would like to meet with other director's who represent libraries that are municipalities and school district libraries.

The director will get quotes for interior projects in the library.

Patron Mrs. Jones is appreciative of the Board's response to her complaints.

One of the falling trees has been cut down and another is in the process of being eliminated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval is requested for the library to issue a Mount Vernon Public Library card to patrons who are non residents of Westchester County. This differs from the WLS library card and can be used to check out Mount Vernon Library materials only.

The issue was discussed and it was suggested it would be a safeguard if these patrons also had a New York Public library card.

The Board approved a non-resident card free of charge to use for Mount Vernon Public Library materials only.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Board entered Executive Session at 9:08 pm. The Board returned to Public Session at 9:36 pm and issued the following statement:

Given the financial condition of the City of Mount Vernon it appears the 2010 budget will not reflect the retroactive payments included in the 2009 budget. The Board accepts that employees are entitled to retroactive pay, but cannot assume it will be provided unless a contract agreement has been reached by December 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

DRAFT

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary