

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

September 15, 2010

6:30 pm

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Danna Wood Webb who presided called the meeting to order at 6:48 pm.

Present were: Millie Burns, and Julie Mills Worthey, Trustees.

Also present were: Terry Kirchner, WLS Executive Director; Mary Ellen Forte, WLS Trustee; Michael R. Hekle, Jackson Lewis; Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President; Cheryl Thomas, library staff; Tamara Stewart, patron; Opal Brown Lindsay, Director; Patricia Hansen, Interim Business Manager; and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting of July 21, 2010 were approved as amended.

GRIEVANCE STEP II – The Step II Grievance (Summer Sundays) was tabled. The union was not prepared to present the grievance at this board meeting.

PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Gary Newman thanked the board for their comments regarding his work performance.

Tamara Stewart inquired about the status of the Assistant Director position.

Danna Wood Webb said that there is an opening for the Assistant Director position in the budget and hopefully the library will be able to fill that position. Interviews will be given.

Cheryl Thomas inquired about the broken water fountain in the Technical Services area. She said it had been broken for several weeks and wanted to know about repair. Mrs. Lindsay asked if a work order had been filed. Ms. Thomas said that she did not know.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Board President Danna Wood Webb reported that she met with the Mayor and the Regent, who expressed interest in the library and said he would support the library. The Regent inquired about the landmark status of the library. Mrs. Webb suggested that the library put together an information packet for the Regent.

Mary Ellen Forte said that because the library is not in its original form, it does not fit the requirement for landmark status.

It was suggested that perhaps the National Trust for Historic Preservation be contacted. It was thought that the issue of landmark status is worth revisiting. The issue is how much has the library been changed and can it be restored.

Portions of the building may comply with the landmark status. Perhaps there are people who are willing to support the artist who did the mural in the rotunda.

Millie Burns said that she attended an alternative funding meeting at the Greenburgh Public Library. The presenters were library directors who had followed the program. The director's had a choice to change their method of operation. Each spoke about what the experience was like. It was a lot of work, but there were stories about how the change was beneficial to the library.

WLS TRUSTEE REPORT:

Mrs. Forte said that at the last meeting the CLDA budget vote indicated to the PLDA Board that Mount Vernon Public Library had rejected the budget.

Every Trustee had an opportunity to speak. It was explained that the Mount Vernon Board would not approved the budget without further discussion.

Terry Kirchner said that for WLS to get funding it must submit an annual request. There was a question on that form about the approval of the CLDA budget. WLS answered that the CLDA budget had not been approved.

Opal Lindsay and Terry Kirchner met in March to discuss the budget process.

WLS asked for the money in the budget to be used to support a person who does cataloging outside the central library. Opal Lindsay proposed a person to do cataloging within the central library.

The Mount Vernon Public Library suggested a person to work at Mount Vernon, PLDA approved a person to work at WLS.

It was asked how long Pearl Gill held the position at the library.

Mr. Kirchner said position that Pearl Gill held at the library no longer existed in the 2009 CLDA budget.

Terry Kirchner said that CLDA must support services to all communities not only the local community.

Mary Ellen Forte asked if the cataloger could work part-time at Mount Vernon and part-time at WLS.

Terry Kirchner said that the option can be explored as long as the person is working on central library materials. The position should not be used to supplement local library operations.

Opal Lindsay said that she would support a bi-lingual cataloger, which is an area that the library needs. Mrs. Lindsay said that she is concerned that the money stays in the central library. It has been shown that the money has been slowly removed over the years.

Terry Kirchner said that Mount Vernon Public Library has a big challenge. Albany wants to differentiate between the central library and local libraries.

Mrs. Forte said that there should be a listing of special collections of the central library and what is in these collections. The board members at WLS would like to know.

Terry Kirchner said that WLS can run a report to identify the central library collection from the Mount Vernon collection. The library would only be charged for the Mount Vernon collection. WLS would be charged as the keeper of the central library materials.

Mr. Kirchner said that something is needed in the minutes to stipulate that the cataloger from the system would be working at Mount Vernon Public Library.

There is concern that it be made clear that Mount Vernon Public Library is the central library and that services emanate from a person that is here, If the library is to rebuild and continue to rebuild functions, the library begins to send that message.

Terry Kirchner said that we need to make sure the funds are documented and spent according to regulations.

FOUNDATION REPORT:

Opal Lindsay said that the foundation gala will be held at the library this year. The date has been narrowed down to November 11, 2010.

There is no report yet on the foundation funds raised in 2009.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mount Vernon Public Library is involved in offering a series of workshops on the special education process. There is a meeting at the end of the month for support groups.

The new library operating hours will begin in October 2010.

Monday – closed; Tuesday to Thursday 9-8; Friday 9-6; Saturday 9-5; Sunday 12-5.

There is a new exhibit in the Rotunda gallery entitled “One of Many”. The curator is trustee, Millie Burns.

The Summer Reading program ended with excitement. State Senator Ruth Hassel Thompson and Assemblyman Gary Pretlow participated. For the last three years Assemblyman Pretlow has offered checks to the top participants.

The Ben Gordon event the following week was also very well accepted. Mr. Gordon has expressed interest in working with the library.

The staff has attended workshops and meetings this summer.

Librarian Nishan Stepak completed a yearlong project to overhaul the collection. We recognize Mr. Stepak, as well as Cheryl Berent, Cheryl Thomas, Jovanna Easterling and library aide, Stacey Hardiman. The director also recognizes the Technical Services staff and the maintenance staff.

The retirement incentive legislation was passed by the City Council. Eight members of the staff are eligible for these packages.

The Central Library Committee has recommended a pilot project in support of specific collections in strategic locations of the county, based on a system wide survey. The libraries selected were Tuckahoe, Mt. Kisco and Chappaqua.

There were questions about the foreign language collection at Mount Vernon.

It was suggested that the library explore the after school programs of the Portuguese American Club in Mount Vernon,

The Finance Department of City Hall must approve the remaining capital projects at the library. The Department of Public Works has done a walk through at the library to assess the remaining projects.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Patricia Hansen said that the current budget will make it through the end of the year.

The city has contacted the library to submit its budget for 2011.

Mrs. Hansen said that if enough people do not take the retirement incentive the library will be back where it was financially and the city will not help again.

The July 2010 Bills and Payrolls totaling \$370,076.57 properly certified by the Director and reviewed by Danna Wood Webb and Millie Burns were approved by the Board of Trustees and requested paid. The checks are numbered #020180-020295 (payrolls), #056339-056380 (payrolls, petty cash), and #030969-031004 (bills).

The August 2010 Bills and Payrolls totaling \$278,656.27 properly certified and reviewed were approved by the Board of Trustees and requested paid.

The checks are numbered #020321-020360 (payrolls), #056381-056411 (payrolls, petty cash), and #031005-031048 (bills).

REMARKS OF THE TRUSTEES:

Trustee Mille Burns thanked Patricia Hansen for her support with the retirement package and Mary Harper who supported her with the exhibit. Ms. Burns also thanked Nishan Stepak who picked books to support the exhibition and Geraldo Soares and Rebecca Steere whose feedback and support about the exhibit was appreciated.

Ms. Burns said that she had received an email from Gary Newman about collection acquisitions. She felt that Mr. Newman's 100 Greatest Videos collection, which was done in conjunction with the Jacob Burns Film Center, should be on the library Web site as a way of outreach for someone who may wish to participate. Trustee Burns thanked Leroy Lea for his work on the library Website.

There was concern that the Foundation domain name had not been updated and discussion about why the Foundation website was separate from the library.

Millie Burns is the curator of the new exhibit, "One of Many". Ms. Burns thanked Audley Campbell of the maintenance department for his help with the exhibit.

There was discussion about the process for selecting art work that comes from the community for exhibition at the library. There was also discussion about funding through ArtsWestchester grants.

The board discussed establishing an advisory committee to oversee library exhibits.

Opal Lindsay suggested planning a year of events in conjunction with the library's anniversary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board presented the following slate of candidates for election to trustee offices:

Millie Burns, President

Julie Mills Worthey, Vice President

Arlene Roberts Grant, Treasurer

Rodney Reynolds, Secretary

The slate of candidates was elected upon a motion by Danna Wood Webb, seconded by Julie Mills Worthey.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board entered executive session at 8:36 pm

The Board returned to regular session at 11:16 pm and recorded this decision:

The Board of Trustees approved the CLDA budget with the Memorandum of Understanding that the personnel designated to fill the line item position of cataloging and or collection development will be stationed at Mount Vernon Public Library at a time that is agreed upon by the Central Library Director and the WLS Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary