

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

June 16, 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 Arlene Roberts Grant, Trustees.

Also present were: Don Partrick, CSEA Labor Relations Specialist; Mary Ellen Forte, WLS Trustee, Ernie Garcia, Journal News; Ruth Shire, President, Friends of the Mount Vernon Public Library; Thea Blessitt, Scott Griffith, Kevin Robinson, Cheryl Thomas, Cathy Webb, Christopher Williams, library staff; Andrea Fobbs, Robert McDonald, Loretta Novik, Tamara Stewart, patrons; Opal Brown Lindsay, Director; Patricia Hansen, Interim Business Manager; and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

### MINUTES:

Approval of the minutes of the meeting of May 19, 2010 was tabled due to a lack of a quorum.

### PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:

Andrea Fobbs said that she has been patronizing the library since her children were little. Families come to the library every day. It helps people in getting jobs and helps kids with financial aid. She said it would break her heart if the library closes.

### PRESIDENTS REPORT:

Board President Danna Wood Webb said she has met with the Mayor and informed him that the library has voted to become a School District Public Library. The Mayor expressed his feeling that the library should become autonomous.

#### WLS TRUSTEE REPORT:

Mary Ellen Forte said that there are reports from other libraries regarding curtailing services, not just Mount Vernon. She said that if the library keeps its eye on its eventual goal, it should be okay.

WLS is keeping track of all financial situations at the library. The executive committee of WLS will be meeting at the end of the month.

#### FRIENDS REPORT:

Ruth Shire reported that the Friends have completed a two-day book sale with books selling at prices of fifty cents and one dollar.

Funds were raised for a special Reading Buddies project for the Children's room.

#### DIRECTORS REPORT:

Library Director, Opal Brown Lindsay reported the following:

A public petition initiated by Tamara Stewart has taken on a momentum of its own.

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The foundation president has spoken to Mrs. Lindsay and expressed belief that the city council will give the library the needed funds.

Circulation statistics have fluctuated during May. This could be due to days when the system was down.

Lack of funding has curtailed the spending for the library collection. The library has not been buying as many copies and volumes as it should. One of the standards of the Central Library is to have the largest collection in the system.

A new exhibit from the Mount Vernon School District students is being installed. It will be open to the public for viewing through the end of August.

Cathy Webb was selected to participate in a grant-sponsored training by People and Stories. The grant was awarded to WLS.

The Children's Room Librarians have been receiving invitations to visit with the schools. Shawn Dunnom and Scott Griffith both attended assemblies to provide information and promote the summer reading activities.

Cathy Webb and Cheryl Berent of the Young Adult department are finalizing plans for Summer Reading as well.

Progress on the YA room has been put on hold in order to answer questions on the capital project plans.

Adults will again this year participate in the Summer Reading activities.

An improved print copy service is in place.

The Job Club sponsored through WLS is completed. The library was informed that our location was the most successful.

The WEBS counselor has reported an increase in appointments and attendance workshops.

The Reference Department has also started service workshops.

Repairs to the windows facing the parking lot have begun. The Director has moved her office into the old administrative office and made her old office available as a Trustee/Conference Room.

The elevator is down again. Mrs. Lindsay has requested that its repair be part of the capital projects with the city. The city changed contractors for elevator maintenance and the library was not added to the new contract.

It was suggested that the library find creative ways to appeal for funding for a new elevator

#### FINANCIAL REPORT:

Patricia Hansen said that in five months the library has gone through roughly half of the budget. The budget is draining faster than anticipated.

A journal entry must be made for a cancelled 2009 check in the amount of \$45,000 for WLS databases. The vendor involved did not receive the check. The city will recognize the payment as being spent in 2009.

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The city pays the New York State retirement bill and the library must reimburse them. This bill does not come until the end of the year. Patricia Hansen said that the library's portion of the retirement contribution is going to increase from 8% to 11%.

Opal Lindsay said that various scenarios and consequences regarding the budget have been presented to the city. The city is pushing layoffs. She said that she is supposed to meet with them again.

Mrs. Lindsay said that the Mayor could approve \$250,000, but he now understands that this will only cover staff and not other obligations.

Pat Hansen said that the city has asked the library to crunch the numbers, but has not committed to any funds.

Patricia Hansen said that she is working on the cost for the library to participate in the New York State retirement incentive. If the Board agrees to the resolution, she will propose it to the state.

Mary Ellen Forte asked if the city council would have to adopt the retirement incentive. Mrs. Hansen said that the library can adopt the resolution independent of the city.

It was asked what the incentive program could offer the employees. Patricia Hansen said that it depends on the options.

There were questions regarding building expenses that need to be clarified

The May 2010 Bills and Payrolls totaling \$212,924.63 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 #020110-020145 (Payrolls), #056275-056303 (payrolls, petty cash), and #030852-030896 (bills).

**REMARKS OF THE TRUSTEES:**

Millie Burns expressed a special thank you to Tamara Stewart for getting the petition going.

Ms. Burns clarified that the library is mandated by its charter to function as a School District Public Library. The trustees are elected by the public. The budget for the library is voted on by the public.

Elections are held separately from the school district. The board of regents has said that the library must comply.

Danna Webb said that this is protection for the library and the public. Once the budget is voted on it will remain the same unless an increase is needed. The public will be able to determine the budget.

Mary Ellen Forte said that it gives the community residents more control over who's on the Board of Trustees. The budget can increase, but will remain the same as long as the public agrees. It is an opportunity for residents to have a say.

Though the state has made this demand, it understands there is a process and the library is just beginning the process. The public must be educated

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The library is seeking to begin the process in 2012. It was asked if the state would force the library to begin sooner and would the library be prepared if the state forces their hand. Danna Webb said that she does not think the state will force. She said that she does not see 2011 as being realistic.

It was suggested that perhaps the foundation could help support the funding of a consultant. The foundation has been supportive in the past and has been attending financial meetings.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board entered executive session at 7:40 pm on a motion by Millie Burns, seconded by Arlene Roberts Grant.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:30 pm. No decisions were recorded

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Secretary