

BERWYN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

December 15, 2008 Regular Meeting
Library Board Room, Riverside Drive & Harlem Avenue

Board Training

Prior to the regular meeting Gretel Stock-Kupperman and Kathy Roegge of the Metropolitan Library System conducted a training session on the Illinois Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act. Present were Board President John Chrastka, Vice President Jerome Pohlen, Secretary Eileen Pech; members Jill Bambenek, Irene Martin and Doris Remp; and Director Bill Hensley.

Call to Order

The president called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m. Absent were members Maria Salinas and Louise Sommese. Guests included Mayor Michael O'Connor; Alderman Nona Chapman, Library Liaison; Mary Karasek, former Board member; and Shelly Titzer, Citizens Aligned to Renew Education for Students (C.A.R.E.S.) Also present: Staff Members Mary Frank, Briana Perlot, Craig Schumacher and Tammy Sheedy. Arriving later were City Clerk Thomas Pavlik and his wife Sue. Clerk Pavlik detailed the fall and hospitalization of Board Treasurer Sommese.

Agenda

A revised agenda including the resignation of Page Adreian Smith was accepted as presented.

Minutes

On a motion by Remp, the regular minutes of November 17, 2008 were approved as presented.

Mayoral Presentation

Mayor O'Connor reviewed the library's 2009 budget request, noting that unlike those of other city departments it proposed salary increases. He also noted the budget request lacked some revenue details and did not contain a capital improvement wish list. The mayor voiced concern about the library's ability to achieve a balanced budget and cautioned that the City Council opposes raising taxes. He requested library tax levy details so the December 31 deadline for submitting the city's levy can be met.

Due to the illness of the treasurer, President Chrastka named an Ad Hoc Finance Committee consisting of Hensley, Pech and Pohlen. On a motion by Pech, the Board unanimously voted to empower the committee to make a recommendation to the City Council on the amount of the levy and to suggest other revenues as necessary. Chrastka asked the committee to submit its levy proposal to the city by Friday, December 19.

Public Comment

Titzer encouraged the Board to "think creatively" and reinstitute Sunday hours by reducing hours on other days.

Karasek expressed frustration with residents who ask for services more like those available in Oak Park and noted the Berwyn Library frequently has been the underfunded "stepchild" of the city.

Chapman said she has spoken to state legislators about securing more funding for the library.

Director's Report

On a motion by Pech, the Board accepted the resignation of Adreian Smith, Periodicals page, and referred to the City Council a request to hire a replacement. The motion later was amended to reflect the replacement would be hired to work 15 hours per week at a proposed rate of \$7.50 to \$7.75 per hour.

Pech noted BPL departmental statistics show an increase in patronage over last year, part of the upward trend in library usage in hard economic times reported in recent national television news stories.

Finance Report

On a motion by Pech and a roll call vote, the Board unanimously approved November payables of \$120,299.82.

Buildings and Grounds Report

On a motion by Martin, the Board unanimously agreed to go out for bid to replace the condenser bundles on the HVAC system.

Policy Committee Report

The Board without dissent approved successive motions by Pech to amend the Bylaws as:

1. Article II, Section 2 -- Add service as ethics officer of the Board to the duties of the secretary;
2. Article IV, Section 1 -- Merge the Policy and Ad Hoc Personnel Committees as a single Policy and Personnel Committee with the added responsibility of serving as the conduit for the annual evaluation of the Director and for transmittal of information regarding relations with AFSCME.

On a motion by Pech, the Board affirmed establishment of a hierarchy of the Board President, Vice President or the President's designee to serve as Hearing Officer in AFSCME grievances referred to the Board. To assure time sensitive follow through, the President will acknowledge within 24 hours of receipt of a request whether he or she will be available to serve.

On a motion by Pech, the Board reaffirmed the American Library Association's Statement of Professional Ethics approved by the Board in 2000, and agreed to its incorporation into the Berwyn Library's Personnel Handbook.

After a motion by Martin to eliminate the video fee died for lack of a second, the Board adopted a motion by the Policy Committee chair to refer the matter to a joint Board/Staff Ad Hoc Video Fee Committee for financial review and recommendations. President Chrastka appointed Martin as committee chair and Bambenek and Sheedy as members.

Strategic Planning Report

President Chrastka said the Board Secretary has offered to assist in drafting the report.

New Business

A request by Petar's Painting for a 4 percent fee increase for his monthly cleaning service was referred to the Ad Hoc Finance Committee on a motion by Pech.

Committee Meetings

The Ad Hoc Finance Committee will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 18.
Other meetings will be at the call of the chair.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Eileen Pech, Secretary