

WESTPORT PUBLIC LIBRARY
Westport, Connecticut
Minutes of the Board Meeting
May 20, 2009

Trustees Present: Martha Aasen, Eduardo Andrade, Jocelyn Barandiaran, Russ Baris, Kathie Fording, Linda Franciscovich, John Hooper, David Katz, Jonny Lach, Bernicestine McLeod, Maggie Mudd, Sandy Nathan, Andy Nevas (presiding), Al Puchala, Norman Trepner, Terry Vance, Linda Velez, Bob Wachsler, Michael Wolfe

Trustees Absent: Andy Moss

Andy Nevas called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes of last meeting: The minutes of the Board Meeting of April 22, 2009 were discussed. John Hooper moved that the minutes be approved. Sandy Nathan seconded the motion. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President's report: Andy Nevas welcomed the prospective trustees in attendance and commented that he looked forward to working with them in the future. Board Members should submit their preferences for next year's committee assignments by the end of May. Volunteers are still needed to ride on the Library's float in the Memorial Day Parade.

Library Director's report: Maxine Bleiweis announced that the largest circulation increase since 1998 occurred in April with a 17% increase over last April. Children with active library cards increased 10% over last April. Children's librarians are out promoting the Summer Reading Program in local schools. Podcasts are now available on the web from Simon Winchester's talk and the Harlem Renaissance series. From the summer Library newsletter, highlighted programs included: Gina Barreca at noon on June 2, a Community Conversation on the evening of June 4, Phil Donahue with his film on Iraq on June 10, and a non-profit special discussing "Tips on Foundation Funding" on June 11. The 2010 selection for WestportREADS was announced, *The Housekeeper and the Professor* by Yoko Ogawa. Volunteers are needed for the booth the Library will have at the Westport Street Festival on Thursday, May 28. Examples of ways people have volunteered at the Library are being collected for the 2008-2009 Annual Report. The Library will be closed on Sunday, July 5 as a cost-cutting measure.

Treasurer's report: David Katz reported that ten months into the fiscal year the Library's income is down primarily due to lower returns from the Annual Appeal, but expenses are down as well. Net income is slightly ahead of budget, and the budget is projected to be balanced at year's end.

Friends of the Library: Kathie Fording applauded the support and participation from Board Members attending the Friends Annual Meeting honoring Hedi Lieberman on May 8. Kathie reported that the annual membership drive is going well, steadily bringing in renewals and new members. The next Opening Art Reception is on Friday, June 5 and volunteers are needed for the summer book sale coming up in July.

Finance Committee: Budget update: George Wagner reported that the RTM Library, Museum and Arts Committee attempted to restore \$50,000 of the \$75,000 cut by the Board of Finance from the Library budget, but the vote to restore failed. The RTM voted to sustain the \$75,000 cut. Cost cutting measures are being discussed with both bargaining units and some Sunday closures are being considered.

Development Committee: Update on Booked for the Evening: John Hooper reported that in spite of recently acquired sponsorships, the funding for Booked is still behind last year. John stressed the importance of participation in the Library's three fundraisers: the Annual Appeal, membership in Friends, and Booked for the evening. Cindy Clark announced that a Planned Giving Program was being formulated.

Governance and Nominations: New Trustees: Martha Aasen commented that the nomination process with the RTM went smoothly again this year. The four trustees chosen by the RTM (Julie Belaga, Marianna McCall, Cliff Sirlin, Thuy Tranthi) and the one trustee chosen by the Library Board (Melissa Kane) will officially join the Board on July 1. Notice will be sent as required by the By-Laws prior to the June Annual Meeting.

Other matters: Architect Henry Myerberg will visit the Library on Thursday, May 21 to look over existing plans, talk with staff, and watch how people use spaces in the Library to determine what improvements could be made.

Maggie Mudd moved to adjourn. Norman Trepner seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Norman Trepner
Secretary