

Schenectady County Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 27, 2012
Central Library

Present: Rory Fluman, Anthony Gaddy, Sharon Jordan, Julie McDonnell, Lisa McHugh, Marsha Mortimore, Esther Swanker, Dr. Edwin Reilly, Jean Wildgrube, Dr. Clifford Tepper, Dr. Simon Weinstein, Camille Siano Enders, Tina Chericoni Versaci, Serena Butch-recorder

Absent and Excused: Cheryl Cufari, Joe Landry

Friends Board: William Leitch

Guests: John Karl, Karen Bradley

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Esther Swanker asked for a motion to approve the June 28th minutes. The motion was made by Rory Fluman and seconded by Lisa McHugh. The minutes were approved unanimously.

It was announced that the Board approved the recommendation of Karen Bradley as Library Director in executive session prior to the Board Meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Serena Butch, acting director gave the following report:

Since the last meeting, the new children's wing opened to great fanfare and pride from everyone who visits. The summer was extremely busy with old and new patrons. We are now using the Swanker Board Room for all of our computer training. The old children's room space has been filled with magazines, large print and audio books. We are still working through the punch list items of things that need fixing. Recently caulking, painting and rug installation was completed. A roof leak at the seam of the old and new building is being investigated by the county facilities department.

The next round of state construction grants will include rehabilitation of the sidewalks around the library and landscaping the exterior of the building. We will receive an amount of \$111,318 from the state to help fund the project.

A grant of \$15,000 was awarded to the Library from the office of Senator Farley. We previously considered using this money for computers, but we also have a need for security cameras in the new wing and an upgrade to the current security system. We hope to recommend a specific expenditure next month.

The porch of the Scotia branch is currently being replaced.

A memorial contribution from a Scotia family involves the creation of a stained glass window to be hung in an existing window. The funds are in the library gift and memorial fund, but a motion is needed by the Board to release funds for the making and installation of the art piece. A motion was made by Jean Wildegrube, seconded by Sharon Jordan and approved unanimously.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Bornet Bequest Committee- Sharon Jordan introduced Mary Ann Warner, who has been working with an intern from the County Manager's office to compile a wide variety of data on the branches. Mary Ann reviewed the short user survey to be conducted at each branch. The county facilities staff is doing a physical assessment of each branch, to be completed in October. They still have plans to hire a consultant in 2013 to assess the data and make recommendations. There were some questions about the mandate of the committee and brief discussion. Ms. Jordan said she would take steps to keep the Board adequately informed.

Retirement Party Committee- Rory Fluman reminded everyone of the date for Andy Kulmatiski's party (10-11-12) and noted the deadline to RSVP is October 4. A motion to approve the expenditure of \$250 for a gift for Andy was made by Clifford Tepper, seconded by Jean Wildgrube and approved unanimously. A matching amount will be contributed by the Friends of the Library.

Branch Representative Committee- The committee recommends creating a checklist of physical needs of each branch as a way to keep track of progress in addressing those needs. Lisa McHugh stated that the Board should be able to answer constituent's questions when recurring problems are not attended to. It was acknowledged that the two current branch committees may want to merge some of the information they acquire about branch concerns.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY

Bill Leitch reports that the fall book sale will be held the weekend of September 29th and 30th. The trip to Ireland was a great success. Tour director John Goldsmith will be announcing a spring trip to France very shortly. If there is enough interest, there may be two groups going to France. There is also a trip to Salem, in October.

NEW BUSINESS

A motion to forward the recommendation of Karen Bradley as Library Director to the County Board of Legislators was made by Julie McDonnell and seconded by Sharon Jordan. It was approved unanimously.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

John Karl expressed his congratulations to Karen Bradley. He also cautioned the Board that the expression "corporate anorexia" recently came to his attention. It refers to organizations that continue to divest themselves of quality personnel and eventually fall apart. In light of being down 8 positions in 6 years, he hopes this will not be the result at SCPL.

Karen Bradley reported that OCOB voting ends Sunday and passed around ballots for anyone who still wanted to vote for our community read. A board member is usually named to the OCOB committee, which will convene in the near future.

Bill Leitch expressed disappointment that the Friends of the Library were not included in the process to select a new library director.

A motion to adjourn was made by Camille Siano Enders and seconded by Julie McDonnell. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm. The next meeting is on Wednesday, October 24th at 7:00pm at the Central Library.