

Mission Statement

To offer innovative ways to make the library and its services accessible to members of our diverse communities.

GENESEE DISTRICT LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

At

Genesee District Library Headquarters

5:30 p.m.

4195 West Pasadena Avenue

Flint, MI 48504

July 20, 2009

Minutes

- Call to Order: 5:30 p.m.
- Present: Carney, Cotton, Cronin, Haiser, Ingles, Johnson and Nealy.
- Also Present: P. Parker (Corporation Counsel), C. Nash, A. Goldyn, R. Long, R. Morgan, C. Warren and T. Smiley. Public: P. Korthals, M. Brown, R. Gorney, M. Gutek, E. Dixon, L. Thompson, C. Yurgaites, J. Johnson, A. Staggs, N. Gramblin, A. Ramin, Mr. Ramin, G. Jones, D. King, S. Jones, J. Bugbee, I. Smith, C. Sumpter, S. Edwards-Jackson, M. Rogers, T. Toohey (Grand Blanc Arts Council), K. Bugbee.
- Absent: Green.
- Public Comments: P. Korthals introduced himself as the Union Chapter Chair for the library. He stated the union has concerns about the proposed budget cuts and the possibility of staff reductions. He stated the Union would like to have some input on the proposed budget cuts in order to save jobs.
- J. Bugbee introduced himself as a part-time library assistant for GDL. He stated he is worried about the possibility of being laid off and losing his income during the current difficult economic times. He worries that the reduction of qualified staff would hurt GDL's ability to serve its patrons.
- N. Grambau introduced herself as the AFSCME Union representative. She stated she had read the Executive Director's column in a GDL newsletter in which it states "the GDL staff is doing a really good job and we're doing more for less." She asked the board to consider looking at alternatives to letting employees go.
- M. Gutek introduced herself as the Librarian at the Otisville branch. She stated she has worked for GDL for almost 25 years and has never seen the public so desperate for library services, such computer access to file for unemployment benefits. She stated she realizes these are desperate times and hard decisions must be made; however, her branch is a life line for the people in that community. She stated she would like GDL branches to remain open as many hours as possible.
- T. Toohey introduced himself as a former juggler and improv teacher. He stated he is the board president of the Grand Blanc Arts Council. He suggested that the council help provide some programs to GDL, which would help reduce our programming costs.
- J. Cronin stated that in all the meetings she has attended, she has not heard the word lay-off spoken yet, and is surprised by all this talk about possible lay offs.

Public Comments
(continued):

C. Yurgaites introduced herself as an 18 year employee at GDL as a Librarian. She stated more employees wanted to attend, but they are currently working at branches. She stated there was an article in the Flint Journal recently stating that library services are in higher demand now more than ever. She believes it would be a great disservice to the public to reduce GDL staff and its collection. She stated that a reduction in staff would create increased sick time, repetitive motion injuries and low morale amongst the remaining staff. She stated that GDL should reconsider author talk/programs when staff is being laid off from work. She stated GDL should reach out to the poor, unemployed, military, women getting out of prison and others that need and require our services. She asked the board to send the recommended proposals back for revision.

Approval of
Consent Agenda:

- a. Chairperson called for the approval of the Consent Agenda. G. Nealy moved to approve the agenda. Motion supported by J. Cronin. Roll call: ayes – Carney, Cotton, Cronin, Haiser, Ingles, Johnson and Nealy; nays - none.
- c. The June Financial Reports were approved as presented.
- d. The June Check Register was approved.

Board Development: Nothing to report.

MMLC: Nothing to report.

Corporation Counsel: Nothing to report.

GDL Foundation: Nothing to report.

Written Reports:

C. Nash stated that Mount Morris Township will not provide funding for the Vera B. Rison-Beecher Library. She stated she has attended a couple of meetings with the Friends group. She stated the group has placed materials in the library to solicit donations. She stated they are planning fund raisers, book sales and a raffle in order to keep the library open. G. Cotton inquired what would happen to the staff at that branch if the funding is not available. C. Nash stated, by contract, lay offs would happen according to seniority. C. Nash stated she is looking at attrition, such as employees retiring to assist with future planning to avoid potential lay offs.

C. Nash stated the board was given a newspaper article indicating that the Village of Goodrich is phasing out support for that library by 2011 and will provide no support in 2012. She stated that if Atlas Township does not provide support for it, we will have to close that branch. C. Nash stated that if the current supervisor remains in office through 2012, the supervisor will do everything in her power to keep the library in the community.

J. Cronin remarked there was still one branch to go on the inventory project and C. Warren replied that it is a big branch.

K. Haiser inquired if we are drawing down on our fund balance this year. R. Long stated only if we get to that point, but we have not yet. R. Long stated it was planned by design, but if the budget proposals are put in place, the numbers will change.

Written Reports
(continued):

C. Nash introduced T. Smiley as our Community Relations Officer, which replaces the Director of Support Services position. J. Cronin stated she came across a newspaper article about the teen talent show. T. Smiley stated it is building interest after the article in the newspaper. J. Cronin inquired how many people were enrolled in the program and T. Smiley replied there are approximately twenty five.

G. Cotton inquired if T. Smiley planned to get more in-kind support from partnerships and T. Smiley replied that is what he is focusing on. G. Cotton inquired what besides the Women's Expo is coming up. T. Smiley stated there are several large events throughout the county that is being explored.

G. Cotton inquired about the AT&T contract. R. Morgan stated it is a process and the last deadline was missed; however, the process was started today and should be finished tomorrow and remaining equipment should be installed by the end of the month.

A. Ingles wanted to confirm that Fenton's high door count was due to the fact that Linden was closed for two weeks, and C. Nash replied it was. C. Johnson remarked she was surprised at the Genesee Valley location's statistics.

Finance Committee:

G. Nealy stated the committee met in June to discuss proposed budget cuts and they met earlier today to further discuss it. G. Nealy stated the committee recommends the board to approve the proposed budget cuts. G. Cotton recommends the board review the proposed budget cuts and then discuss it at the August meeting. A. Ingles stated she would like more information regarding the proposed budget cuts. G. Cotton stated it was discussed in depth during the finance committee meetings, which she received notices and should have attended if she had questions. G. Cotton suggested A. Ingles meet with a finance committee member or the Executive Director to get answers to her questions.

G. Nealy stated the strategic plan was also discussed because the current one expires at the end of this year. She stated due to the current financial situation, the committee recommends that the current strategic plan be extended until June 30, 2010.

G. Nealy stated due to the economic conditions, the committee recommends that the board postpone taking action to create a retiree trust.

Marketing Committee:

Nothing to report.

Personnel Committee:

Nothing to report.

Policy committee:

Nothing to report.

Lease and Service Agreement:

P. Parker stated that should have action on the Davison lease in the next couple of days. He stated that the Grand Blanc situation should be resolved relatively soon. He stated that Beecher and Goodrich are still up in the air. J. Cronin inquired how many have signed the lease and service agreements and P. Parker stated that about half have been signed.

Closed Session:

J. Cronin moved to enter into closed session at 6:13 p.m. to discuss the status of the union contract negotiations. Motion supported by G. Nealy. Roll call: ayes – Carney, Cotton, Cronin, Haiser, Ingles, Johnson and Nealy; nays – none.

Open Session: The board returned to open session at 6:33 p.m.

Board Comments: G. Nealy stated she has attended several programs and enjoyed each of them.

G. Nealy stated that C. Birmingham is doing a wonderful job at Flint Township and the programs there are being well attended. She noted that the senior center at Flint Township allowed C. Birmingham to use the outside pavilion for one of the programs.

A. Ingles stated that she is on an email list for the new Swartz Creek Library Friends group. She received pictures of gifts that have been donated to the library.

A. Ingles asked for a written copy of the proposal to create regional libraries.

C. Johnson congratulated C. Nash for working towards her goals through the economic stimulus package having the teenage volunteers work in the libraries.

Adjournment: G. Nealy moved to adjourn at 6:37 p.m. Motion supported by J. Cronin.