

THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD  
September 25, 2007

Attending: OPL trustees Bob Minzesheimer, Joyce Lannert, Peter Capek, Thomas Staudter, Mirla Morrison, Lucinda Manning, Reginald Bush; School district liaison Alice Joselow; OPL director Beth Bermel; guests Marta Camacho (owner of Exotic Foods, located next door to OPL); and Theresa May and Michele Lamorte.

President Minzesheimer called the meeting to order at 7:12 PM in the board room of the library.

Minutes: A motion was made (Morrison, Bush) to approve the August 23, 2007 minutes. Unanimous.

Public Comment: Ms. Camacho complained about the months of noise and dust she had had to endure while the new library was built. Now is concerned that the parking lot project is taking too long. Her windows need cleaning. Minzesheimer will follow per cleaning the windows of Ms. Camacho's business.

Questions from New Trustees: Manning wanted to know if there was an annual report and a long range plan. Minzesheimer said both have been discussed, and several versions of a long range plan were studied over the last few years. Morrison suggested a long range plan committee. Joselow suggested a consultant to the board along these lines. Manning thought it would be a good time to survey the patrons. Morrison thought an organizational chart for the staff was needed. Board agreed on both ideas. Having the staff undergo yearly sexual harassment training was another thought, and bermel will contact the WLS for recommendations. Morrison thought a policy committee would be a good idea too.

Director's Report: Bermel talked about budget expenditures and search for a new young adult librarian. Teen room staffing being augmented with part-time hires. Two other hiring priorities: a part-time graphics position and a full-time PR position, who will have lots to do. Minzesheimer added that the Community calendar project is still in the offing. Bermel reported the piano will be delivered on 10/1. Morrison wanted to know who was paying for the recital pianist's fee. Answer: library will. A motion was made (Bush, Morrison) to close the library on Christmas Eve at 1 PM. Unanimous.

Free Direct Access Plan: Minzesheimer explained how the Westchester Library System works, and how this plan helps communities that don't have access to village libraries. Capek thought the bureaucracy too pushy; we have no choice about accepting the plan or not. Regardless, a motion was made (Staudter, Manning) to accept the WLS Free Direct Access Plan. Motion passes on vote: 5 Yeas, 0 No and 1 Abstention (Capek).

School Liaison Report: Joselow reported that the School superintendent and other district administrative officers had a good "Get acquainted" meeting with OPL director Bermel.

Construction: The problem with water seeping into the neighboring (DeRosa) property is not groundwater but coming from one of the geothermal wells. The system was turned off during this exam. Apparently, the replenishing capacity of the five wells are all different. A flaw in the design regarding the pumping off water in and out. The system's problem may have been known earlier. Who pays the hydrologist's bill of \$4000? A letter has been sent to the architect and construction manager. No word back yet. Minzesheimer asked that Building Committee

stay involved with flooding/geothermal issue. More about the parking lot at next building meeting tomorrow (9/26). Capek reports little progress with the café. Owners of the Wobble Café don't want to occupy space and pay rent till parking lot is finished.

Invoices: A motion was made (Staudter, Capek) to pay the following invoices on the recommendation of Lannert, following her review: Eberlin & Eberlin #3886 (\$1,050.50); Keane & Beane #434160 (\$454.20); and Special Testing Laboratories #21297 (\$1,062.00). Unanimous.

Bylaws: Discussion began on whether to amend the by-laws or not. Minzesheimer thought it was a matter of whether they should be detailed or not. Morrison said simple was better, though changes should be made to match new realities. It was decided to table a vote on adopting any changes.

Board Committees: It was decided that three standing committees be formed to help direct business of the board. Facility Committee: Bush, Lannert and Capek. Policy & By-law Committee: Morrison, Bush, Manning. Budget Committee: Minzesheimer, Morrison and Staudter.

At 10:00 PM a motion was made (Morrison, Manning) to go into Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue. At 10:10 PM a motion was made (Staudter, Manning) to exit the Executive Session. Both motions passed unanimously.

A motion was made (Manning, Bush) to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 PM. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Staudter