

THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY  
REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD

April 14, 2008

Attending: OPL trustees Bob Minzesheimer, Joyce Lannert, Peter Capek, Thomas Staudter, Mirla Morrison, Lucinda Manning, Reginald Bush; OPL director Beth Bermel (arriving 30 minutes after the start of the meeting due to attendance at a local court hearing involving the OPL). Guests: Helen Chuckrow; Patrick O'Mara; Elizabeth O'Mara; Eugene McGovern; Floy Businas; OPL staffer Chris Surovich.

President Minzesheimer called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM in the board room of the library. The agenda was approved.

Minutes: A motion to accept the March 17, 2008 minutes was tabled until the next board meeting.

Public Comment: None

Trustees' Report:

President—Minzesheimer reminded all that next meeting will on May 19. There are rumblings from the foundation about wanting to get busy on some initiatives. Mirla Morrison will take over as board liaison to the foundation. Morrison reported about a recent meeting of the Association of Development Officers that met at The Trove at the White Plains Library; she was very impressed. Minzesheimer said plans for the Library Festival, starting on May 12, were underway, and that author Frank McCourt will be the headliner.

Building Project—Lannert said that the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) plaque ceremony would be Tuesday, June 10 from 4-6 PM Regarding construction and the new OPL, there have been some difficulties, said Lannert. No resolution on the past problems with the geothermal pumps and associated costs, nor the sequencing of the pumps at present. The plumbing company owes the OPL training in the sequence of operation. The architect said the OPL should call John Rice, but he hasn't returned calls. OPL attorney working on documentation regarding the "new" contractor, Malcolm Patrick, who took over from Lasko. Paperwork regarding the retaining wall is missing. OPL is having trouble getting the finishing paperwork, and so is holding back \$70,000 from Malcolm Patrick until the paperwork is handed in. Todd Harvey still needs to send over the wiring diagram for the theater lighting system, and the OPL is in the process of pricing the railing lighting for the theater.

Bylaws/Policy—Morrison said that lawyers are coming back with recommendation to the committee regarding a Code of Conduct. Conflict of Interest statement needs to be looked at before coming to the board. Director's Evaluation Committee has not met yet.

Budget—Bermel proposed another budget during the board last meeting that would increase expenses 8% from last year, mostly because of the new union contract and additional expenses. She presented a third proposal that increased the budget 4.62%, cutting some programming, materials and personnel hours to do so. A fourth proposal increased the budget 1.15% but meant closing the OPL during some hours. In questioning from the board and public attending the meeting, Bermel expounded on the different budget proposals, stating that #3 would mean fewer hours and no computer training for the public; that #4 would mean no Sunday hours and the OPL would be closed on Thursday nights. Bush, as chair of the budget subcommittee, recommended that the board not go beyond the cuts in #3., and because of the new library and the public use of the facility that proposal #2 be chosen by the board. Floy Businas added that she'd

like to see more programming at the OPL, not less. Both O'Maras said that the community needed the library open more than ever, especially in tough economic times. Lannert asked if we could go to a 4% budget increase. Staudter said budgets should be prepared with realistic costs in mind to begin with, and hoped that the present figures weren't padded. Minzesheimer said that budget cuts don't necessarily mean the end of programs. But that the OPL should be thinking about how to creatively support programs with help from the community. A budget of \$3,524,624, reflecting roughly a 5% increase from the prior year's budget, was put forth in a budget resolution, motion made by Lannert and Morrison, that passed 5-2, opposing votes by Bush and Manning, who wanted the original second proposal with the 8% increase.

Construction Invoices: A motion to pay the following invoices was made and unanimously approved on the recommendation of Lannert, following her review: Beatty Harvey #4520 (\$50.22); Keane & Beane #438393 (\$780.00); Piazza Brothers (Applic. 23 for \$15,326.79 pending close-out documentation); Savin Engineers #9250 (\$115.94). Unanimous.

#### Old Business:

Unique Management—Staudter made a motion to have Unique Management, which helps OPL collect late fines and overdue materials, refrain from reporting OPL patrons with delinquent fines and lost materials to credit bureaus. Motion was tabled, and Bermel said she would talk to Unique about this situation. Staudter noted that over 400 OPL patrons have been reported to credit bureaus by Unique in the past five years, some with less than \$60 of overdue fines, and suggested that simply suspending their borrowing privileges would be a good enough penalty. He also suggested that the OPL have signs near the checkout areas that espouse those benefits to the community from good, responsible library patrons.

GOTV—Bermel noted that officials from GOTV were hoping to soon have figures about finishing the basement area of the OPL for possible use.

Goals for 2008—Tabled until the May meeting.

New Business: A motion to pass three resolutions accepting donations and grants to the library was made and unanimously approved. Resolution #24 accepted, with thanks, a donation from Mr. and Mrs. Philip Picciano; #25 accepted, with thanks, the balance of the LLSA New York State grant in the amount of \$1,024.50; and #26 accepted, with thanks, a \$300 grant from the WLS for a children's program, "Dia de los Ninos." Unanimous.

At 9:10 a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel issues was made and unanimously approved. A motion to leave executive session at 9:30 PM was made and unanimously approved.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM was made and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas Staudter