

Ossining Public Library
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
24 November 2008

Attending: Ossining Public Library Board of Trustees members Peter Capek, Thomas Staudter, Lucinda Manning, Samantha Brail, Reginald Bush, Bob Minzesheimer, and Mirla Morrison.
Staff: Elizabeth Bermel and Bonnie Katz.

President Capek called the meeting to order in the board room of the library at 7:06 p.m. The Agenda was approved unanimously.

Approval of the October Minutes: Mirla Morrison moved, and Reginald Bush seconded. Unanimously approved.

Public Comment: none

Staff Report – Bonnie Katz reported on her attendance at the NYLA Conference in Saratoga Springs. She attended many sessions from blogging to La Biblioteca Virtual, a Spanish language database coordinated by the Westchester Library System. She also attended three Film Roundtable sessions. Those included “But I want to Watch it Now” a video on demand service that is downloadable media but fee based. Another was “Film Festival Fun at Your Library.” This session suggested obtaining speakers like Janet Maslin who can bring Debra Winger; partnering with the Jacob Burns Film Center; including excerpts from reviews on promotional flyers; having focus groups; booking local film-makers and their work; using the OPL web site to survey patrons; etc. Finally, she was introduced to new formats such as streaming digital and blu ray and to Anime programming.

The Board then had a wide ranging discussion with Bonnie Katz during which she shared the guidelines for video/DVD purchase, funding issues, and programming. Among the possible future film series Bob Minzesheimer suggested a Spanish film series, one on the immigrant experience, and utilizing the expertise of community members.

Ms. Katz announced a new program, Film Movement that is described in the current By-Line. Film Movement consists of award-winning, independent and foreign films and is very cost effective. She was congratulated on the film series she has coordinated this year.

The Board enjoyed Ms. Katz’s presentation and learned a great deal from it.

Director’s Report:

In addition to the written report Beth Bermel announced that the new website is operational for a “soft” opening and additional features will be added. Round 2 of Gaming Night will be on

Friday, December 5th. The Holiday Luncheon, December 12th will recognize the volunteers. Bob Minzesheimer added that the Teen Poetry Workshop is having a publication party on December 4th. Our redesigned newsletter will be launched in the New Year. Beth Bermel has found software from which she can extract e-mail addresses, so we will be able to e-mail newsletter. The newsletter will continue to be mailed to those who request it. Barbara Lipp will create the design; and Jimmy Trapasso and Jane Clark are responsible for the content.

There was Board discussion about what would happen if we eliminated the Reference Department Head. Beth Bermel commented, "It would be crippling. We need to keep the momentum of services and development going." Candidates are currently being interviewed.

Operating Budget Report – Beth Bermel reviewed the monthly budget report that continues to be on track.

Personnel – Beth Bermel reported that she has hired Andrea Morcone and John Torres as Library Clerks. Bob Minzesheimer moved that the Board accept her report. Reginald Bush seconded, and the Board unanimously approved. Cheryl Cohen will act as the Interim Head of Reference until a new Department Head is hired.

Trustee Reports

- President: Peter Capek mentioned opening OPL for evening usage by teens; Beth Bermel put together a one page proposal to do that and it was shown to the Inter Municipal Group last week. An example might be a coffee house with music. There was some interest but not enthusiasm. The Board supports the concept, but feels we need some modicum of support from the other agencies.

President Capek reported that there was a moderately successful piano concert with Mr. Romanovsky but the concert with the Drucker trio the following week had standing room only. Bob Minzesheimer expressed his concerns about our publicity outreach.

- Building Project Committee: Beth Bermel announced that the curtain is in and will be installed in the theater; the stage lights are installed; the strip lighting is coming but won't want it installed until after railing; the railing should be installed this week. The Projector is working but the electrician and Edutek still need to resolve the underlying problem.
- By-Laws/Policy Committee: Lucinda Manning announced the Policy Committee will meet December 1st.

The Board discussed the Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest policy. This has already been accepted by the staff and reviewed by our attorney. A motion to amend paragraph 1 to read \$25 was made by Mirla Morrison and seconded by Peter Capek. The motion was

passed unanimously.. The passage of the complete policy was tabled waiting the rewording of the rest of paragraph 1.

Approval of Construction Invoices

Tom Staudter moved, and Lucinda Manning seconded, the payment of the following:

- Keane & Beane, P.C. (Inv.#442878) 195.00

Passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Reginald Bush moved and Sabrina Brail seconded that the Board of Trustees accept with gratitude the donations of two framed photos for the Children's Room from Howard Ravis and a framed photo of Ossining scenery and the Hudson River from Mark Sedan. Passed with Tom Staudter abstaining.

New Business

The discussion of the Mission Statement was tabled and Bob Minzesheimer distributed the Goals passed in 2004.

The Proposed dates for 2009 Board meetings were accepted. They are:

January 12, 2009
February 9, 2009
March 16, 2009
April 20, 2009
May 18, 2009
June 15, 2009
July 20, 2009
August 17, 2009
September 21, 2009
October 19, 2009
November 16, 2009
December 21, 2009

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m. was made by Reginald Bush, seconded by Mirla Morrison, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mirla Morrison

