

Ossining Public Library
Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees
16 March 2009

Attending: Ossining Public Library Board of Trustees members Peter Capek, Lucinda Manning, Reginald Bush, Tom Staudter, Bob Minzesheimer, and Mirla Morrison. Staff: Elizabeth Bermel. Member of the Public: Mark Sadan.

President Capek called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The Agenda was accepted as amended.

Approval of the February Minutes: Bob Minzesheimer moved, and Reggie Bush seconded, the approval of the Minutes. Unanimously approved.

Public Comment: Mark Sadan shared some of his thoughts with the Board. He is working to re-activate Ossining Arts Council and would like to see an Ossining Museum created downstairs. He loves the Café and would like to see it used as a performance space. Finally, he has visited the roof and thinks it could be used for outdoor events.

Mark Sadan presented a gift to the Library entitled, “A Panoramic view from the roof of Ossining Public Library looking toward the Hudson just after dawn.” It is a spectacular, framed photograph of our environment in the fall. Mark Sarazen did the printing. Mark Sadan is planning to do a series in different seasons. The photograph was accepted with great thanks from the Board. Beth Bermel commented that the staff is in the process of deciding where our collection of artwork will be placed in the Library.

Director’s Report: Beth Bermel reviewed the highlights of, and gave an update to, her written report. The sliding, outside doors are fixed. The horizontal crack in the window to the right side of the rear doors to the Library shows no evidence of vandalism. Since the Ossining School District owns the building, its insurance will cover the replacement. We are currently awaiting the third quote. Beth Bermel has interviewed 3 of the candidates for the 5 public seats on the Adult Programming Committee; she hopes the process will be completed by the next meeting. Jane Clark is updating our Exhibit policy.

Operating Budget Report – Beth Bermel reported that the monthly budget is on track.

Revenue Report - As the Board reviewed the report, Beth Bermel explained we cannot have a line for book sales, so it has been removed. Tom Staudter raised the question: “how is revenue generated on our funds?” Beth will check the interest rates on our various accounts and get explanations from Linda Carpenter at the Ossining School District Office.

Tom Staudter raised some questions about specific bills he encountered during his turn at the monthly audit. Beth Bermel will look into them. The Board recommended that Beth Bermel get an Ossining Public Library Business Credit Card to be used for official Library expenses.

Personnel Changes –

- Anne Beier, a part-time employee was promoted to Librarian I effective 3/1/09

Trustee Reports

- President's Report – Peter Capek reported that we had a couple of wonderful events. Thanks to Bob Minzesheimer, Blake Bailey spoke about his new biography of John Cheever. His talk followed a reception organized by Jane Clark. The attendees at the lecture had the opportunity to buy the book and have it signed by the author. 10% of the proceeds are donated to the Library by the Pleasantville Book Store. In a new cooperative venture Violinists Brooke Quiggins and Elizabeth Young performed in the Budarz Theater co-sponsored by the Chappaqua Library.
- Building Project Committee – Peter Capek reported Savin Engineers has invited Walter Ludlum, Joyce Lannert, Peter Capek, and Beth Bermel to a celebratory dinner to mark the completion of construction of the Library.
- By-Laws/Policy Committee: Beth Bermel recommended that the paragraph “Before or after hours of Library operation” in our Building Use Policy Fee Schedule be amended to read, “Fundraising events will be charged the commercial organization rate, unless the funds directly benefit the residents of the OUFSD or a public organization* within its boundaries.” (*Public organizations include other governmental entities and 501(c)(3), “public charities” as defined by the Internal Revenue Service.) Reggie Bush moved, and Mirla Morrison seconded, the replacement of the above paragraph into the fee schedule that was adopted May 19, 2008. Unanimously passed.
- Budget Committee: Reginald Bush had sent out the proposed budget for the Board to review. During a long discussion, alternative suggestions were raised on how to further trim the budget as well as arguments put forth for maintaining the budget as proposed. The Director and the Committee will re-look at the Budget, and communicate with the Board.

Beth Bermel is looking into the problem with the path patrons have created going from the upper parking lot to the sidewalk. It is hoped that a solution to this problem will be able to be completed with funds from the current budget.

- Festival Updates: Bob Minzesheimer announced that on April 13th Marilyn Johnson will be talking about her new book, This Book is Overdue.

Approval of Construction Invoices:

- Keane & Beane, P.C. Inv. #445046 \$292.50
- Savin Engineers, P.C. (inv. #0010292) 24.43

Mirla Morrison moved, and Reggie Bush seconded, the acceptance of the payment of the Construction Invoices listed above. Unanimously passed.

New Business:

- Bob Minzesheimer suggested paying for certain programs structured through the Associates.
- Lucinda Manning suggested a cooperative book binding workshop with the Hudson Valley Writing Center to be held in October.

Old Business

- Beth Bermel announced that the Associates are in process of reorganization. She presented a proposal to Jane Clark for compensating Library for certain programming costs.

Reggie Bush moved, and Lucinda Manning seconded, a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:26 p.m. Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Mirla Morrison