

BROOME COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Regular Session

Minutes  
March 5, 2009

Members present: President Margaret Coffey, Vice President Lanny Kipp, Secretary Mary Jane Bolles, Ruth Levy, MA Thompson, Norman Sweeney, Bethany Williams, Cheryl Ebert, and Eugene Burns

Members absent: Thomas Gray, Constance Barnes

Advisory Members

Present: Andrew Block, Community Relations, City; Katie Bertrand, School Library System Coordinator BOCES

Advisory Members

Absent Leigh Ann Scheider, Assistant to County Executive, Dr. Patricia Gazda-Grace, Binghamton City Schools

Also present: Director Lisa Wise, Secretary Sandra Ulbricht, County Attorney Peter DeWind, Library/Union President Jennifer Kot-Ferro, BCPL Reference Librarian Patricia Przybylski, 4CLS CEO David Karre, library patron Gregory Branum, NAACP Secretary Stanley Gluck

President Coffey called the Library Board of Trustees' meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: none

Appointments and Resignations: none

*E. Burns motioned to accept the February Minutes as presented; R. Levy seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.*

4CLS CEO David Karre attended the board meeting to give the board some background and overview about the issues that are involved regarding library consolidation and services, and distributed information from the State Education Division of Library Development website regarding public library districts.

D. Karre commended L. Wise on the great job she has done working with consolidation of the online library catalog.

March 5 Minutes – continuedStanding Reports

Director: L. Wise

Additional discussion to director's report:

1. Congratulated B. Williams for her post doctoral acceptance at the University of Arizona at Tucson. B. Williams will be leaving the end of June.
2. The Census Bureau has asked to use the space, which is now being used by the AARP, from April 20<sup>th</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily, for 2010 census training. Plans to renovate the space for Local History would be held off until after June. N. Sweeney suggested that limits be set on the parking spaces that they will need. L. Wise will discuss with census staff.
3. Library Day in Albany is being held March 10. 4CLS is sponsoring a bus. L. Wise and librarian S. Kowalski will be attending.
4. L. Wise included two financial reports in the board packet. One depicts final figures for 2008 and one from January 2009.
5. L. Wise met with Broome County Budget Director N. Maxwell along with E. Burns. L. Wise advised that it appears the budget office has used the Library's fund balance and made final decisions on fund balance use. It was the consensus of the board that the \$418,622 fund balance should be available to use. L. Wise advised that twenty computers, that will not be funded by the county, are needed to replace the ones in the public area that are from the year 2000 received free from the Gates Grant. Also, to become more energy efficient, light fixtures need to be changed. These are expenses beyond the normal operating budget. The highest expense after personnel is electric that costs BCPL \$100,000+ a year. DPW electricians will look into rezoning the electricity so that one light switch does not control an entire floor.
6. Library publicity has increased with an events calendar in the Press & Sun-Bulletin, events listed on Yahoo.com and GoBroomeCounty.com. The goal is to send one press release per week to the media.
7. Elsie Logan, BC EEO officer will be conducting a workshop during the Library's Staff Development Day on April 22.

March 5 Minutes – continuedBoard President: M. Coffey

E-mail from C. Barnes advised that C. Barnes spoke with someone from the Morris Dancers, who will be coming to Binghamton for the May Day dance, and that she would like them to dance in the garden for First Friday in May 1. They accepted. R. Levy stated that it was not confirmed as there was a concern because the library closes at 5:00 p.m. on Fridays.

M. Coffey advised that some of the Master Gardeners will work on the weeding and maintaining the garden.

N. Sweeney uncomfortable with holding events in the garden this year; concerns that are not answered yet. MJ Bolles suggested that no events be planned for this year; to use this year to research and make sure that all problems are ironed out; to continue having the garden committee, but work on it as the situations come up during the summer. L. Wise advised that the City of Binghamton Fire Marshal advised her, after looking at the garden space, that if there are 49 or less people in the garden only one open gate is needed.

*MJ Bolles motioned that the Garden Committee continue to work on the possibilities of renting out the garden space for the future, but for the time being the garden will remain as a reading garden. B. Williams seconded. With E. Burns and N. Sweeney opposed, motion carried.*

## OLD BUSINESS

1. Memorandum of Understanding with the Historical Society. L. Wise doesn't think that this memorandum has been reviewed since it was drafted in 2000. M. Coffey advised the board to review with questions for Historical Society and have the Historical Society president attend the next board meeting.
2. Foundation has yet to receive finalized paperwork for dissolution. This could possibly happen in May or June.

MJ Bolles suggested that the board continue with making sure that the Foundation Office gets cleaned out by the 24<sup>th</sup> of March and their files stored in a secure area. L. Kipp suggested that a letter be sent to the Foundation president that their files will be placed in a secured area. Anything else that they want will have to be removed or it will be disposed of.

March 5 Minutes – continued

NEW BUSINESS

1. Karen Stanley, owner of Shards of Glass, would like to donate either one or both of her pieces of art to BCPL.

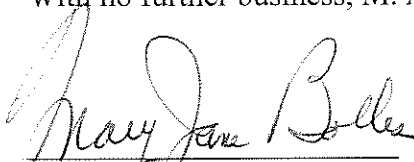
*MA Thompson motioned to accept the two items; B. Williams seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motioned carried.*

2. WSKG policy on public comments at board meetings.

*L. Kipp motioned that L. Wise amend this to make it applicable to the Broome County Public Library. B. Williams seconded. With no abstentions or nays, motion carried.*

Policy will be placed in the Policy and Procedure manual, made available to the public, included with the March minutes on our Web site. Copy will be available at the board meetings.

With no further business, M. A. Thompson motioned to adjourn; B. Williams seconded.

  
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Mary Jane Bolles  
Secretary