

**MINUTES OF THE BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Bloomfield Township Public Library
Oakland County, Michigan
Tuesday, April 26, 2011

At 7:04 p.m. the Library Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order by President Judy Lindstrom.

Present: Trustees: Margaret Cohen, Lyle Dahlberg, Grant Gerhart (via conference call), Judy Lindstrom, Joan Luksik , and Pam Williams

Administration: Library Director, Karen Kotulis-Carter; Assistant Library Director, Carol Mueller; Director's Secretary, Andrea Aragona

Guests: Amy Young, SOC; Jim Pletz, TLN Director; Doug Koschik, Director Baldwin Public Library; Linda Urey, Township resident and United Homeowners representative; Sue Bernstein, Lisa Kaptur, Connie Silver, Martha McGee, Bloomfield Township residents; Edna Freier, Candee Repa, Walter Briggs, Rosanne Koss, Lee Peddie, Amelia Brice, Janet Mooney, Cynthia Rubin, Norman Ruben, Anne Hammond, Beverly Hills residents; Bob Warren, Dorothy Warren, Dorothy Ketai, Donald Ketai, Bingham Farms residents.

Upon discussion, a motion was made by Lyle Dahlberg, seconded by Joan Luksik **TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF ITEMS AS AMENDED ON THE AGENDA AND THE CONSENT AGENDA AS AMENDED.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

President's Verbal Report:

Judy stated that with the promise of spring and the beauty of all our flowers blooming around the Library, she hopes she will not have any more sad things to report but unfortunately at this meeting she does. On behalf of the entire Board, Judy extended their condolences to Beth Sulek- LaHousse in the loss of her mother and also to the family of Isabelle Charnov. Karen had shared a very heartfelt and moving letter with the Trustees from Isabelle's son Richard Charnov. At this time, Judy asked Peggy to say a few words about Isabelle. Peggy stated that Isabelle served this Library as a past President of the Friends of the Library and volunteer as well as a Library Board Trustee for many years. She worked tirelessly for the Library and that is reflected in many aspects of our new building. She was very instrumental in just how beautiful things are and how well they fit together. Her good taste and energy are evident throughout the Library. Isabelle influenced the design discussion of our Library Gardens and was instrumental in the development of the Asian Garden at the Library entrance. Isabelle had great respect for the other Library Trustees and Staff. She brought an attitude of courtesy and respect and we will all miss her.

Director's Verbal Report:

Karen stated that she has been in communication with Isabelle's family and Isabelle has named our Library in part of her estate. She has requested that the money is used to purchase books for the Library collection.

We are continuing to save with our alternate energy supplier, Integrys. Our rate was 17.8% per mcf less than Consumers Energy for the last month.

Karen invited the Trustees to attend Staff Development Day on Friday, May 13. Judy will attend to present the service awards to staff.

We are collecting our Spring Performance Output Measures. We collect statistics twice a year to better understand our patron's needs.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION

After discussion, a motion was made by Joan Luksik, seconded by Peggy Cohen **TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR AGENDA:

Call to the Public:

Judy welcomed Amy Young, SOC; Jim Pletz, TLN Director; Doug Koschik, Director Baldwin Public Library; Linda Urey, Township resident and United Homeowners representative; Sue Bernstein, Lisa Kaptur, Connie Silver, Martha McGee, Bloomfield Township residents; Edna Freier, Candee Repa, Walter Briggs, Rosanne Koss, Lee Peddie, Amelia Brice, Janet Mooney, Cynthia Rubin, Norman Ruben, Anne Hammond, Beverly Hills residents; Bob Warren, Dorothy Warren, Dorothy Ketai, Donald Ketai, Bingham Farms residents.

At this time, the public attending was given an opportunity to speak before the Library Board. Comments from public were concerning contract communities and Library borrowing privileges. Residents of Beverly Hills and Bingham Farms expressed their desire that BTPL continue borrowing privileges. Bloomfield Township residents expressed their concern that our library could not continue privileges that were not equitably funded especially during a time of reduced revenues. Doug Koschik, Director of Baldwin Library, requested that the Board continue its policy of allowing borrowing privileges to their two contract communities. He shared that Baldwin Public Library has been able to reduce its nonresident use to 16% through restrictions set in place. James Pletz, Executive Director of The Library Network, stated that TLN only encourages its member libraries to reciprocate services; it makes no requirement of extending privileges. He shared that TLNs position is to support local decision and authority regarding its rules and regulations. Currently five libraries in TLN do not allowing borrowing by any other member libraries. Mr. Pletz shared that libraries with more than 15% nonresident use are exceeding the state-wide standard and are allowed to constrict use.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Circulation Use and Policy Review:

The Policy Committee met twice prior to this meeting to review the Circulation Policy. At this time Peggy Cohen and Joan Luksik, Policy Committee members, recommended the Board approve changing our current Circulation Policy. Non residents may borrow BTPL materials if their home library has a reciprocal borrowing agreement with BTPL or if their home library is a reciprocating member of our library cooperative, TLN. Peggy stated that this was a very heart-wrenching decision and the Board does not like limiting library access. However, we have spent the last two years limiting library usage to our residents, who are paying taxes for the services at BTPL, by being open fewer days, purchasing fewer new materials, discontinuing the Library Newsletter etc. The Library Board of Trustees first responsibility is to serve our community and provide the best Library services to township taxpayers.

Grant Gerhart stated he agreed with the Peggy 100%. He suggested that based on what he has heard so far, at a future date an additional goal for the Library Board should be to get our non-resident usage down below 12-15%, or whatever the Board feels is a reasonable number considering our funds have declined 20% over the last several years. He also stated that it is unfortunate we have to go in this direction; however, the residents of Bingham Farms and Beverly Hills have a very good library to go to at Baldwin Library and are not without a Library.

Judy Lindstrom stated that whatever decision the Board makes, she takes comfort in knowing that Baldwin Library, West Bloomfield Library, and other TLN Libraries are fabulous Libraries with wonderful collections for their contract communities to use.

After discussion, a motion was made by Lyle Dahlberg, seconded by Peggy Cohen **TO ACCEPT THE PROPOSED CIRCULATION AND USE POLICY AS PRESENTED.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Karen Kotulis-Carter stated the driving force behind this decision is the economy. We would not be sitting here trying to find ways to address the \$1,000,000.00 we have lost since the 2008 budget. We have tried several things, limiting circulation of non-residents, but it only brought the numbers down to 25% at best, along with limited computer access to non-residents and we are still hovering around 20%. Our hopes are that this is a temporary restriction. The Library Board has given Karen administrative direction, should this be approved this evening, to try to find an appropriate time to implement this new policy. The impetus behind a lot of this has been the May 1, 2011 closure of Troy Library leaving 70,000 people looking for a Library along with Romulus Library closing leaving another 10,000 people looking for a Library and Detroit Public Library closing many of its branches. The soonest we might be able to implement this new policy would be June 1.

NEW BUSINESS:

No discussion.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

No discussion.

A motion was made by Joan Luksik, seconded by Grant Gerhart **TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER:

No discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is Tuesday, May 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Submitted by:

Joan Luksik, Secretary