

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

Bloomfield Township Public Library
Oakland County, Michigan
Tuesday, May 17, 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, Judy Lindstrom, and Pam Williams

Unable to Attend: Joan Luksik

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

Guests: Amy Young, SOC; Linda Urey, Township resident and United Homeowners representative; Sue Bernstein, Klaren Gerhart, Marcia Robovitsky, Connie Silver, Bloomfield Township residents;

Upon discussion, a motion was made by Grant Gerhart, seconded by Peggy Cohen **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, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

President's Verbal Report:

Judy thanked the Friends of the Library for supporting our continued garden installations. She also congratulated all of our young artists participating in the special exhibition of student art work from the Visual Arts Program of the Bloomfield Hills School District. The exhibit will be on display in the Library from May 17 through May 27.

Judy stated that with the flurry of stories that have appeared in various publications this past month, she thought she would take a few minutes to mention some of her observations. Judy was reminded of a quote she read stating "It is impossible to find two opinions exactly similar, not only in different men but in the same men at different times." Judy said "I sometimes think that change has a bad reputation in our society. And sadly, for some the Bloomfield Township Board's recent decision have led them to view our actions as nefarious. This decision was not some arbitrary act, or decided willy nilly. This decision came after we eliminated our Library Newsletter that went to all the households in Bloomfield Township, this decision came after we eliminated dial up computer access to our citizens, this decision came after we had to initiate nine unpaid furlough days for our staff—and we are grateful that not one staff member has been laid off, this decision came after we had to reduce spending in every facet of our Library in order to reduce our budget these past few years. I don't think one person on this board is happy with any of the decisions we've had to make but they were a necessary evil in these economic times.

They have weighed heavily on all our shoulders. I've had the opportunity and quite frankly pleasure to speak to many strangers, friends and associates in Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms and Birmingham and while they may not be happy with our decision, they have all walked away with a better understanding of our dilemma and point of view. I have been pleased that these conversations were thoughtful and compassionate. I just hope this current rancor that seems to be coming from a small contingent of Birmingham citizens will not become the norm. My background is journalism and I know that the juicier the headline and story the better. Sadly some of the quotes have really bothered me—in particular the quote that said we were treating Beverly Hills and Bingham farms as *second class citizens*. This insults me to my core and it sadly besmirches my character and all who sit around this table. I'm the first to enjoy a good debate but I always remember that we all live in this wonderful community together and that words can wound. In all the attention that this matter continues to generate one thing always gets lost and that is that the Baldwin, West Bloomfield, Rochester Hills and other Libraries are terrific resources for all the people who use them."

Director's Verbal Report:

Karen stated that the Library is much honored to showcase the Bloomfield Hills School district student's art show. There are more art pieces this year than ever before in our Community Room and Lobby Showcases. Karen thanked the schools for sharing their talent with us and allowing us to have the exhibit here at the Library.

Karen stated that we are watching our statistics very carefully and noticed that in April, despite our restrictions on non resident computer use, non resident's still comprised 26% of our total computer usage. We are continuing to work on bringing that number down to where it should be. Our April circulation is the highest it's been over the last 5 years. We had large increase in Bloomfield Township resident patron use which was 60,595 this April compared to 55,257 last April.

Karen thanked Judy for attending Staff Development Day and also thanked the Library Board of Trustees for giving staff this one day for training during the year at which time we review very important topics, learning experiences and issues as one united group. Karen thanked Judy and the Lindstrom family for their donation of funds to support this year's Staff Development Day in memory of her father, John R. Lindstrom. Karen also stated that Judy Lindstrom announced that her family would like to support Staff Development Day for the next three years. Karen expressed her sincere gratitude to the Lindstrom family for their generous support.

At this time, Karen informed the Trustees of a wonderful gift received from the estate of Isabelle Charnov in the amount of \$57,000.00. Karen will be speaking with the family regarding the use of this gift. The Library has also received other special gifts this past month. The beautiful planter at the Welcome Desk was a gift from the Sylvester Pelowski family, in his memory. A lovely rocking chair for Youth Services was a gift from Susan Chapnick in celebration of her husband Jerry's 75th birthday. Judith Carlson has created several handmade animals and puppets along with their clothing and quilts that correlate with a wonderful children's book and are now included in story boxes in our special needs collection. A few of these creative story boxes were displayed for the Board. We also had a generous offer from a gentleman in the community to allow a student performing in the next series of Chamber Music Concerts from the University of Michigan to use his Stradivarius for the performance. Karen stated that the Library is very appreciative of the generosity of our patrons.

CONSENT AGENDA MOTION

After discussion, a motion was made by Lyle Dahlberg, seconded by Grant Gerhart **TO APPROVE THE ITEMS ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS PRESENTED WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING: CASH DISBURSEMENTS; MONTHLY DIRECTOR'S REPORT.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

REGULAR AGENDA:

Call to the Public, Communications

Communications:

Judy informed the Trustees that a letter was received this afternoon from Andrew Harris, Vice President, Baldwin Public Library Board of Trustees. Each Trustee was given a copy of the letter. Due to the late receipt of this correspondence and other related materials from Baldwin Library, Judy stated that this would not be a discussion item this evening. She suggested the Trustees review the letter and if they feel this should be addressed by the Policy Committee or made an agenda item at a later date the appropriate arrangements will be made.

Judy welcomed Amy Young, SOC; Linda Urey, Township resident and United Homeowners representative; Sue Bernstein, Klaren Gerhart, Marcia Robovitsky, and Connie Silver, Bloomfield Township residents.

At this time, the public attending was given an opportunity to speak before the Library Board. Comments from Marcia Robovitsky were concerning contract communities and Library borrowing privileges. She stated she has been a resident of the Township for 32 years and strongly supports the Board's action on contract services. She stated she attended the Baldwin Public Library's Board meeting on Monday, May 16 and expressed her opinions and support of the township. Ms. Robovitsky shared that her intent is to support the Library and does not want the Board to rescind their decision regarding contract communities.

Connie Silver, Township resident, stated that everyone in this Library has been acting like ladies and gentlemen in reaction to a lot of things. She stated that as a resident she is very proud of her elected officials on this Board.

Linda Ulrey, Township resident and United Homeowners representative stated that she supports the Board's decision and congratulated them on their endurance. She feels there may be more battles ahead. She stated that the United Home Owners Association supports the Board entirely.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Cleaning Services Bid Award:

On March 10, 2011, a request for proposals for Library cleaning services was released. The request was mailed to 25 companies in the Metro Detroit area as well as posted on the Library's website. After analysis of all proposals, reference calls and interview, it was determined that Du All Cleaning, Inc. best met the Library's cleaning service needs.

After discussion, a motion was made by Peggy Cohen, seconded by Grant Gerhart **TO AWARD THE CONTRACT TO PROVIDE CLEANING SERVICES FOR BLOOMFIELD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMENCING ON JUNE 20, 2011 TO DU ALL CLEANING, INC., 47465 BARBARA ROAD, MACOMB, MICHIGAN 48044.**

A vote was taken for approval of the motion.

Ayes: Cohen, Dahlberg, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS:

No discussion.

DISCUSSION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:

A question was raised with regard to the expense to LJ Rolls Refrigeration. Karen stated that this is payment on our regular maintenance agreement with this company.

A question was raised with regard to the stolen video games. Karen stated that several video games in our collection had breached cases that were pried open with the disks removed. The entire game collection has been inventoried and 30 games were stolen. These incidents were not seen on our security cameras. All games are now being kept behind the Circulation Desk and the empty cases are on the media shelves so that patrons can continue to browse, but will check out the actual gaming disk from the Circulation Desk. A police report was made with regard to this issue.

A motion was made by Lyle Dahlberg, 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, Williams

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

OTHER:

Judy informed the Trustees that she has received Lyle Dahlberg's resignation from the Library Board of Trustees due to relocation. Judy stated that it is with great sadness that we accept this resignation. Lyle stated that he is willing and able to continue his service for the short time until a successor is chosen. Lyle thanked Judy, the other members of the Board of Trustees, the management of the Library and the wonderful staff for making his time fun and rewarding. Lyle stated "The Trustees have a true gem in their care and I know they will continue to make it sparkle."

The Trustees thanked Lyle for his service to the Library.

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

The next meeting of the Library Board of Trustees is Tuesday, June 21, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Submitted by:

Joan Luksik, Secretary