

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

Bloomfield Township Public Library  
Oakland County, Michigan  
**Monday, December 19, 2011**

At 7:00 p.m. the Library Board of Trustees Meeting was called to order by President Judy Lindstrom.

**Present:** Trustees: Margaret Cohen, Joseph Falik, Grant Gerhart, Judy Lindstrom, Joan Luksik and Pam Williams

**Administration:** Library Director, Karen Kotulis-Carter; Assistant Library Director, Carol Mueller; Director's Secretary, Andrea Aragona; Finance Coordinator, Beth Sulek-LaHousse.

**Guests:** Traci Moy, SOC; Klaren Gerhart, Township resident; Sue Bernstein, Township resident; Marcia Robovitsky, Township resident.

Upon discussion, a motion was made by Pam Williams, seconded by Joe Falik **TO APPROVE THE ORDER OF ITEMS FOR THE REGULAR AND CONSENT AGENDAS.**

*A vote was taken for approval of the motion.*

*Ayes: Cohen, Falik, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams*

*Nays: None*

**MOTION CARRIED**

**President's Verbal Report:**

Judy stated that she had been reflecting on the past year and despite many dips and bumps, she wanted to applaud this Board for continuing to stay on the "high road" dealing with all the situations that presented themselves this year.

Judy thanked the Friends and the SOC for the wonderful holiday party. She extended her heartfelt wishes to all for a safe and happy holiday season.

**Director's Verbal Report:**

Karen wished all a happy holiday season. She reminded the Trustees of the additional concert added on January 6, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. funded through many generous donations to the Library in memory of Bruce Carter.

Karen commended Carol Mueller for overseeing the outstanding collections presented in the Library display cabinets. In January we will have more Pop Up Books on display along with paper architecture created by Cranbrook students. Karen thanked Karen Imarisio, Adult Services Assistant Department Head, for her enthusiasm and dedication to art at the Library. Many of the Pop Up Books on display are from Karen Imarisio's personal collection. Karen also contacted 1<sup>st</sup> year graduate art student, Eric Drury, to install a new original art work which is suspended from the ceiling in the Adult Services area. This is a beautiful 4 foot long, 42 inch wide, round kinetic paper art sculpture and will be in the Library until February 2012.

## **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 WITH THE EXCEPTIONS OF THE FOLLOWING: CASH DISBURSEMENTS AND MONTHLY ACTIVITY REPORTS.**

*A vote was taken for approval of the motion.*

*Ayes: Cohen, Falik, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams*

*Nays: None*

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **REGULAR AGENDA:**

Communications:

At this time Judy stated that we have received some letters and emails concerning last week's Special Joint Meeting with the Bloomfield Hills School Board. Judy wanted to reiterate her statement that equal services are provided to all children who live in Bloomfield Township regardless what school district they attend. This is very important to remember. There has been some talk about the word "partnership" with regard to this issue. The Library's attorney has stated that "In my judgment, the "partnership" between the Bloomfield Township Public Library and the Bloomfield Hills School District is in no way a legally recognized partnership entity under Michigan law but rather is consistent with the lay definition of partnership which is recognized to be someone associating with another in a common undertaking (Webster's Dictionary). To describe Bloomfield Hills School District and Bloomfield Township Public Library as "partners" or engaging in a "partnership" only connotes their joint association or collaboration on a similar task.

The Library also received an email from Howard Baron, Township resident, regarding televising the Library Board meetings. At the November Board meeting, Leslie Helwig gave a very informative presentation on this topic. Since that time, Leslie has offered the services of BCTV to have our Board Meetings videotaped at no cost to the Library for 1 year. We will move ahead with the free service, but will have to look at the cost of this service to see if it is cost effective for the Library after the free service is over. We plan to begin taping at our April, 2012 Library Board meeting.

Call to the Public:

Judy welcomed Traci Moy, SOC representative; Klaren Gerhart, Township resident; Sue Bernstein, Township resident and Marcia Robovitsky, Township resident.

Sue Bernstein stated that she was very concerned over the partnership with the Bloomfield Hills Schools. She stated that it is very important for the Board to explain to the public exactly how this partnership will work.

Marcia Robovitsky stated she feels that if you specifically talk to the Bloomfield Hills School District and invite their teachers to give you their projects, etc. you are not servicing all the children in Bloomfield Township. She felt the Library should not be out seeking places to go, but rather should be seeking people to come in that pay the taxes for this Library. She suggested partnership with the United Homeowners Assoc. which represents 56 Homeowners Associations and engage the Bloomfield Township taxpayer community.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

*Troy Public Library Reciprocal Agreement:*

We have reciprocity with 67 libraries at this time. During the 2010-2011 fiscal year, our residents checked out 3,420 items from Troy Library. Troy residents checked out 14,889 items from BTPL during that same time period.

It was also noted that as of January 1, 2012 Troy Library will be closed on Fridays. The Board's primary concern is with the Township residents that are using Troy Library. After much discussion it was decided to table this issue until more statistics and information is presented before making a decision.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

*PA 152:*

In November the Library's labor attorney, Malcolm Brown, advised the Library that Bloomfield Township was reviewing with him the affect the new Michigan law PA 152 had on employees. He reminded us also that PA 152 will require public employees to contribute to their health care costs. Malcolm stated that the Library needs to implement one of the three options by January 1, 2012 which PA 152 allows public employers to cover any new eligible employees we may hire. The Personnel Committee met on December 8, 2011 along with Scott Patterson from Butzel Long. Mr. Patterson explained that the intent of PA 152 is for municipalities to control health care costs. Bloomfield Township and the Library had already been proactive in changing employee health care coverage to reduce costs. PA 152 gives the public employer three options from which to choose for funding of health care costs. Our 22 eligible full-time employees all have current contracts which run through March 31, 2017. According to Section 5 (1), "the requirements of section 3 or 4 (of PA 152) do not apply to that group of employees until the contract expires. Because all of our full-time employees are currently exempt from this change until the contract expires in 2017, the actual cost to the Library with either option is zero. Only when one of the existing full-time employees (up until 2017) leaves the Library, will the new employee's coverage be affected. After reviewing the three options, the Personnel Committee and Administration recommended Option 1, known as the Hard Cap Option. Our ability to have a known number for budgeting will help the Library to plan for this cost.

After discussion, a motion was made by Grant Gerhart, seconded by Pam Williams **TO APPROVE ADOPTION OF THE HARD CAP OPTION FOR NEW FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR HEALTH CARE COVERAGE, AS STATED IN PA 152, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2012.**

*A vote was taken for approval of the motion.*

*Ayes: Cohen, Falik, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams*

*Nays: None*

**MOTION CARRIED**

#### **DISCUSSION OF ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA:**

A comment was made with regard to the visible increase in items being checked out by Bloomfield Township residents in the monthly activity reports. With the current limitations in place, our Township resident's circulation continues to increase. The statistics are confirming recent circulation policy changes.

A motion was made by Peggy Cohen, seconded by Pam Williams **TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS AS PRESENTED.**

*A vote was taken for approval of the motion.*

*Ayes: Cohen, Falik, Gerhart, Lindstrom, Luksik, Williams*

*Nays: None*

**MOTION CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The next meeting of the Bloomfield Township Public Library Board of Trustees is Tuesday, January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room.

Submitted by:

Joan Luksik, Secretary