

Dearborn Heights Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
July 19, 2007

Chairman Tim Powers called the meeting to order at 7:40 PM at the Caroline Kennedy Library.

Present: Eulalia Colon, Vice Chairwoman Emmy Peck, Secretary John Zadikian.

Absent: Sherry Kosko (excused).

Also present: City Council Liaison Janet Badalow, Library Director A. Michael Deller, Caroline Supervising Librarian Michael McCaffery, JFK Supervising Librarian Michael Wrona.

Motion by Colon, supported by Peck, to approve the May 17, 2007, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Communications:

From A. Michael Deller, a June 25 letter regarding the nomination of teen services librarian Julie Beukema for a national "Book Page" award. Deller said Book Page is a publication available in libraries and bookstores. He surmised that had Beukema won, we would have heard by now.

From A. Michael Deller, a June 27 letter to Morgan Hammoud, president of Arcadia Family Fun Center, 25855 Ford Road. Mr. Hammoud was commended for his donation of gift certificates/cards in support of the libraries' 2007 Summer Reading Program.

Special/Standing Committees:

There were no formal reports of any special/standing committees.

Peck questioned the June cleanup by Eagle Scouts of JFK as captured in a Press & Guide photo. Wrona indicated the effort was the brainchild of a parent who approached the library. The group weeded the perimeter of the JFK grounds on two consecutive Saturdays. Deller said volunteers frequently clean up around city buildings which, in response to Peck's question, is not something performed by city employees.

Peck informed the board of a pending cut in free cable television service to city buildings. She said free drops to a number of city buildings will be cut in October. Deller said CK and JFK should not be adversely impacted.

Special/Standing Committees (continued):

Badalow updated the city's charter amendment efforts. She said language regarding the separation of the libraries from the Parks & Recreation Department has been received back from Lansing and is being prepared for the November ballot.

Report of the Chair:

There was no formal report from the Chair. However, Powers announced a monthly Dearborn libraries column has been added to the Press & Guide, and proposed a similar missive for our libraries, which Deller embraced.

Report of the Library Director:

Deller offered an overview of the libraries' "first anniversary" budget. He said overall, the first year was a financially satisfactory one, with revenues at 92% of the total projected one year ago. He said now that a full year has passed since the city began operating the libraries on its own, there is a better handle about actual income and expenses for an entire year.

Deller further updated the board on the "smart access management" computer software. The program will help the libraries monitor computer users' time spent here and in other regional libraries via a username and password system that offers a complete history of a user's account activity. The software is being fully tested and is to be installed at CK and JFK over the next several days.

Deller distributed an updated staff list and announced he has worked with the city's Human Resources department to employ more seniors through an AARP work program. Two workers are at the libraries for 15 hours per week and are paid by the AARP Foundation.

The twenty-two library employees who participated in the city/HAP "Step Wars" walking and fitness program finished in third place overall. There was cause for jubilation as the "Dewey Decimators" was the most improved team in a year-by-year comparison.

McCaffery offered an updated library services' usage report for 2Q '07. Compared to the same quarter in 2006, circulation, computer use and program room use all showed double-digit percentage gains.

Report of the Library Director (continued):

Peck asked if a library automation technician position has been filled. Deller said work continues to fill that position.

Deller said the CK staff was cooperating with authorities to identify youths who caused damage to the Star Academy construction project to CK's east last week. Two youths were believed to enter CK to blend in with the crowd, and an academy rep and a local resident came to the library asking for assistance.

Deller said the Mayor's Office received an anonymous claim that the CK parking lot was a pickup point for prostitution. Deller said that was completely unfounded and asked the board to pass along word if we hear of such a claim.

Deller added that Mayor Paletko wanted to be in attendance but was unable to join the board. However, he does want to meet with the board members to discuss our thoughts as the city enters the second year of self-governing library operation.

Old /New Business:

Badalow said she attended a grant writing workshop recently and mentioned if the Friends of the Library was a 501c3 organization, that more grant monies would be available. She suggested local CPAs would be able to assist with the process. Peck said such a designation has been met with resistance in the past.

Powers asked if the libraries were still waiting feedback regarding the quality audit services checklist, and if a proposed budget was available for review. Deller answered yes to both questions.

Powers had received information that the libraries were among those chosen to participate in the Michigan Read program. Deller said he is not aware of that, but that this and other money-related projects have been delayed due to the state's budget conundrum.

McCaffery and Deller said the library's operating policy manual is being finalized and will be mailed to each board member's homes. The document is not meant to "reinvent the wheel," but we are to review it and contact Deller and the Mayor on recommendations for eventual adoption by the City Council.

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The next scheduled general membership meeting will be on Thursday,
September 20, 2007, at 7:30 PM in the Caroline Kennedy Library.

Motion by Colon, supported by Peck, to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 PM.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zadikian

Recording Secretary