

Dearborn Heights Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
May 8, 2008

Vice Chairman Emmy Peck called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM at the Caroline Kennedy Library.

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

Absent (excused): Chairman Tim Powers, City Council Liaison Janet Badalow.

Also present: Library Director Michael McCaffery, JFK Supervising Librarian Michael Wrona.

Motion by Mrs. Peck, supported by Mrs. Kosko, to approve the March 13, 2008, minutes as presented. Motion carried.

Communications:

From Mr. McCaffery, a letter from State Librarian Nancy Robertson regarding possible changes in the state aid formula. None will be made for the foreseeable future due to negative feedback. Co-ops may have to change in the future, impacting assets of shared resources, and local co-ops are also possible. Mr. McCaffery is devising pertinent local solutions to this issue.

From Mr. McCaffery, a letter from the Robert Vergote family. Mr. Vergote, a longtime library patron, passed away March 6. The Caroline staff was thanked for its kindness by his widow, Betty.

From Mr. McCaffery, the first edition of "Heights Highlights," the city libraries' newsletter. The publication will be seasonal at first, with expansions as necessary. It is available via e-mail and online.

Mrs. Peck mentioned the Veterans Educational Opportunities Program at Wayne State University is looking for donations of books, such as dictionaries, thesauruses, and math and language books. She will go through the items left from the recent book sale and donate what is appropriate.

Report of the Library Director:

Mr. McCaffery offered the following updates/occurrences since our March meeting, all of which prompted a general discussion among those present:

The Friends' book sale raised \$1,955 - higher than last year's total
Numerous events are slated for the Summer Reading Program
Saif Raba, president of the Teen Advisory Board, is the new shelver at CKL
The tech position is waiting to be filled. In the meantime, the work will be contracted out
Wireless Internet access is up and running
Six new laptop computers have been put into service
The portrait of John F. Kennedy Jr. was shown. It is ready to be displayed.
Plaques for it and the Caroline portrait are forthcoming. He would also like to see more art pieces this summer in both facilities
The city's website is being reviewed so that all pages look similar
Answering a question from Mrs. Peck, it is not known if another City Charter amendment regarding the libraries is in the works
A new T-1 line is due at the end of May. Depending on costs, a fiber optic line may be more cost effective than having two T-1 lines
The security cameras are operating; monitoring capabilities will soon be active
There were no comments on reviewed sections of the Policy Manual, other than to include "heelies," the wheeled shoes popular with young patrons
The DPW is aware two ballasts burned out. Mrs. Peck suggested ensuring there is a battery backup system for equipment in case of power outages
The libraries will be closed for two as-yet undetermined days for maintenance and other related issues which cannot be done during normal business hours
Mr. Wrona said Bill Zimmer's sister worked on weeding the JFKL grounds and she did a marvelous job
Mr. McCaffery said he will be on vacation between May 17 and May 27
The proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year has some salary increases in it due to there being full-time director and supervisor positions now
The 1Q statistics update showed increases for circulation, computer usage and program participation, thereby justifying the need for increased bandwidth
Mr. McCaffery wants to write a five-year plan this summer to deal with issues facing the library system as it grows to meet the community's needs.
Addition of a white noise sound system at both facilities is possible, but due to their interior design, it is not known if such a system will be effective
The possibility of reconfiguring entrances and exits at both facilities for better crowd control will be explored. Additional cameras may also be necessary.

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Mrs. Kosko asked if the floors were natural slate and they are. Mr. McCaffery said he would like to cover part of the slate with a carpet to cover cracks, prevent slipping and absorb more noise.

Motion by Mrs. Kosko, supported by Ms. Colon, to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
John Zadikian
Recording Secretary

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