

Westland Public Library
Board of Trustee Minutes
Wednesday, March 10, 2010
Board Conference Room

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, Michigan was held on Wednesday, March 10, 2010 at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, Michigan.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Meeting called to order at 7:03 PM by Board President Leslie Bell

Roll Call MEMBERS PRESENT:
Leslie Bell – President
Rebecca Kelly – Secretary
Duane Moody - Treasurer
Eddie Rice
Michael Weck

STAFF PRESENT:
Cheryl Napsha

ALSO PRESENT:
Michael McNamara - Library Attorney

2. Action on Agenda

MOTION, to remove item a. from Business and renumber remaining items as a, b, c, d.

Motion by: Kelly

Support by: Rice

Kelly – aye
Rice – aye
Moody – aye
Weck – aye
Bell – aye

Motion Carried

3. Citizen's Comments

Westland resident, John Emmerd, questioned the mayor's interview in the Observer regarding joint library operations with other cities and asked if the mayor had approached the board and also wondered how combining services would effect Westland residents from a financial standpoint. He questioned the mayor's statement that city revenues were down 16% but the board had been notified of a 13% reduction in their revenues. Mr. Emmerd also expressed concern over the AFSCME litigation with regard to the legal expenses and the library's budget for services. Ms. Kelly explained that the board would be going before City Council to make requests for funds to handle

the legal expenses, both for the remainder of this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. Ms. Bell explained that the mayor had not approached the board about the idea of joint operation with other cities but that the board expected to be involved in any future discussion. Mr. McNamara added that other cities would be charged for library services if such a plan were ever enacted. The plan, however, has apparently been tabled for now.

Citizen comment cards were discussed. Extensive discussion ensued about food and drinks in the library.

4. Business

a. Approval of Meeting Minutes from February 10, 2010

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 regular board meeting as presented

Motion by: Weck

Support by: Rice

Weck - aye

Rice – aye

Moody - abstain

Kelly – aye

Bell - aye

Motion Carried

b. Approval of Bills

MOTION, to approve bills as submitted

Motion by: Moody

Support by: Rice

Moody – aye

Rice – aye

Weck – aye

Kelly – aye

Bell - aye

Motion Carried

c. Election of Vice-President

Mr. Rice nominated Mr. Duane Moody for board Vice-President

Mr. Moody accepted the nomination but noted that new elections must be held for the next fiscal year in June.

MOTION, to close nominations for Vice-President.

Motion by: Weck

Support by: Rice

Weck – aye
Rice – aye
Moody – aye
Kelly – aye
Bell – aye

Motion Carried

MOTION, to elect Mr. Moody to the position of board Vice-President.

Motion by: Kelly

Support by: Rice

Kelly – aye
Rice – aye
Moody – aye
Weck – aye
Bell – aye

Motion Carried

d. Update on Parking Lot Lighting

Ms. Napsha discussed exterior lighting, for the most part, as being sufficient after bulb replacement. When exiting the building, however, the area to the right seems especially dark. Ms. Bell asked Ms. Napsha to explore spot or low-level lighting for that area and to also look again at the parking lot lighting once the leaves are on the trees.

5. Director's Report

Director's report was presented and discussed. Ms. Napsha also reported that the Harlem Renaissance poets can be seen on YouTube.

Moody: Mr. Moody liked the increase in programming and thought the reports were well prepared.

Weck: None

Rice: Mr. Rice was impressed with the movies presented and thought the selection better than the Friendship Center's. He also liked that the homeless could find temporary refuge by using the library during the day. Mr. Rice mentioned the proposed joint operation with other cities, but Ms. Napsha explained that further discussion is on hold for at least a year. Mr. Rice also liked the added kitchen in the Children's Dept.

Kelly: Ms. Kelly discussed the homeless issue and the fact that library's around the country are seeing this trend in difficult economic times. She asked if information about services for these people could be posted in the library in a similar manner to how we post information for the unemployed and the residents facing foreclosure. Ms. Napsha explained that homelessness has always been an issue for libraries; however, because more people now use the library's services, citizens have started to notice. She emphasized that these people have not caused problems. Detroit is now sharing their database of services for homeless people and the library is working to provide more information. Ms. Napsha is also exploring other ways the library could facilitate help from the community. Ms. Kelly thanked Bernadette for the informative letter about her conference and appreciates the feedback from employees. Ms. Kelly asked Ms. Napsha to look out for the staff's emotional and mental well-being because of the constant socio-economic problems they encounter with the public.

Bell: Ms. Bell enjoyed the article "When Service Matters" and appreciated its inclusion in the packet. She expressed appreciation for Bernadette's letter about her conference and felt that a love for her job truly came through in the letter. Ms. Bell also commented on the "top notch" work Marilyn and Andy continue to give.

6. Citizen Comments

None

7. Board Member Comments

Moody: Mr. Moody offered a belated welcome and congratulations to new board member, Michael Weck. He also acknowledged Mr. Weck's willingness to participate. Mr. Moody thanked the board for its confidence in electing him to the position of Vice-President. He thanked Ms. Napsha for the comprehensive report. Mr. Moody also gave a suggestion regarding food for the homeless in coordination with local shelters.

Weck: Mr. Weck congratulated Mr. Moody on his new position as Vice-President. He brought up the targeted marketing that had been previously discussed and offered to approach the new Marketing Manager at the mall.

Rice: Mr. Rice offered congratulations to Mr. Moody. He also gave Ms. Napsha the name of a local church that works extensively with the homeless. Mr. Rice expressed his desire to congratulate April's employee of the month, Barbara Given, and compared her to McGyver because of her ability to accomplish big projects with a small budget.

Kelly: Ms. Kelly congratulated Mr. Moody on his new board position and feels he'll serve the library well. She also expressed her appreciation to Ms. Napsha for the comprehensive report and the more detailed financials.

Bell: Ms. Bell thanked Mr. Moody for his willingness to serve. She also notated supervisor coverage and chain-of-command for the library and IT issues for Ms. Napsha's absence during an upcoming conference.

8. Next meeting topics

Employee of the month
HVAC contract

9. Adjournment

Motion by: Moody
Support by: Rice

RESOLVED, to adjourn meeting @ 8:07 PM

Moody - aye
Rice - aye
Weck - aye
Kelly - aye
Bell - aye

Motion Carried