

Westland Public Library
Board of Trustee Minutes
Wednesday, September 9, 2009
Meeting Room B

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the William P. Faust Public Library of Westland, Michigan was held on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 at 6123 Central City Parkway, Westland, Michigan.

1. Call to Order and Attendance

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Board President Leslie Bell

Roll Call

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Leslie Bell – President
Samuel Durante – Vice-President
Rebecca Kelly – Secretary
Duane Moody - Treasurer
Eddie Rice

STAFF PRESENT:

Cheryl Napsha – Library Director

ALSO PRESENT:

Michael McNamara - Library Attorney

2. Action on Agenda

Motion, to add item d. Discussion of Facilities Committee to item 3. Business

Motion by: Durante

Support by: Moody

Durante – aye
Moody – aye
Rice – aye
Kelly – aye
Bell – aye

Motion carried

3. Citizen's Comments

Westland resident, Wally Smith, stated he has observed cell phone usage in the library and asked what could be done. Ms. Bell suggested he notify a staff member when this happens so that action can be taken to ask the violator to end their call or step out of the building. She also asked Ms. Napsha to send staff a reminder about the cell phone usage policy and appropriate steps to handle abuse.

Moody: None

Durante: None

Rice: Asked about the Genealogy Class and wondered if it would be offered again. Ms. Napsha said they planned to have it again.

Kelly: Asked about the audio downloads the Canton Library offers and inquired if our library offered it. Ms. Napsha explained that it was quite costly and not in our budget at this time.

Bell: Asked if there are lists for people interested in classes that can be called when a class is scheduled. Ms. Napsha explained that only reminder calls are made to people that have registered for a class. Also, once a person participates in a class, they are put on the library's mailing list to be notified of future classes. Ms. Bell also commented on the nice thank you letter from the Alexander family and the note and picture from their son, Thaddeus, after he won the grand prize in the summer reading program.

4. Business

a. Employee of the Month

Bernadette Dewyer was recognized as the library's employee of the month for October 2009 and granted use of the Employee-of-the-Month parking space. Board President, Leslie Bell, publicly read the acknowledgement of her valuable services.

b. Approval of Minutes for the regular meeting of August 12, 2009.

Resolved, to approve the minutes of the August 12, 2009 regular board meeting as amended

Motion by: Moody

Support by: Durante

Moody - aye

Durante – aye

Rice - aye

Kelly - aye

Bell – aye

Motion Carried

c. Approval of Bills

Motion, to approve payment of bills as submitted

Motion by: Moody

Support by: Rice

Moody - aye

Rice – aye

Durante - aye

Kelly - aye

Bell – aye

Motion Carried

d. Discussion of Facilities Committees

The feasibility and possible need for a Facilities Committee was discussed due to the age of the building and future capital improvements that will be required. After much discussion, Ms. Bell passed the gavel to Mr. Durante.

Motion, to form a Facilities Committee for purposes of fact-finding and assisting with facilities issues

Motion by: Bell

Support by: Rice

Further questions were raised in discussion including the scope of such a committee, what its purpose would be, and what actions it will be authorized to take. Ms. Bell and Mr. Rice were agreeable to their original motion being amended.

Amended motion, to form an exploratory Committee to determine the feasibility and scope of a Facilities Committee

Motion by: Moody

Support by: Rice

Moody – aye

Rice – aye

Bell – aye

Kelly – aye

Durante – aye

Motion Carried

Gavel was passed back to Ms. Bell. Ms. Bell then appointed Ms. Kelly and Mr. Durante to a committee to determine the feasibility of forming a Facilities Committee. Ms. Kelly and Mr. Durante accepted the appointment and Ms. Kelly agreed to chair the committee. Ms. Bell requested that information be presented at the next board meeting if possible.

5. Director's Report

Ms. Napsha discussed the new board manual that was distributed.

Rice: Expressed interest in attending the program "Healing Power of the Arts." He mentioned that he was impressed with the youth volunteers and feels the library needs more adult volunteers. Mr. Rice also thought Margo Dewey did a beautiful job on the cable program about the library.

Durante: Wanted everyone to know that our computer technician, Gary Oke, attended the Mayor's State of the City address and was explaining computers and helping sign up people for the new social networking site the city's providing.

Moody: None.

Kelly: Was glad to see a project in the works utilizing Mr. Bourdeau's services to assist Gary in setting up the library's fiber optics access. Ms. Kelly also asked Ms. Napsha to thank the Children's Department staff for expanding their program offerings in August.

Bell: Likes the Reference Dept. going to the senior residents with computer training and wondered how it came about. Ms. Napsha explained that it resulted from a connection with the Social Director at the Dorsey Center. Ms. Bell offered congratulations to Andy Schuck for obtaining grant from the National Endowment of the Humanities and acknowledged the extra work that takes. She complimented the Children's Department on the "Dewey Read" program and the exposure to different books that it gives the children. Ms. Bell asked about the process for the fiber optic connection and asked for an update at the next meeting. She also asked about Mr. Bourdeau's next project for the library. Ms. Napsha explained that he will be giving us a software update so that Gary can update all library computers at once, rather than one at a time.

6. Citizen Comments

Resident Wally Smith asked how much money the library has budgeted for capital improvements. Mr. McNamara explained the Library Fund, how the money was collected and the procedure for requesting City Council's approval for spending money from the fund. Mr. Smith also asked about the report we were discussing when approving the bills. Ms. Kelly explained how the city provides reports to us based on revenues coming in and our monthly expenses. Mr. Smith asked about the HVAC bills the board mentioned and Ms. Bell explained that some bills are for scheduled maintenance. Mr. Smith asked if any thought had been given to silent signs. Ms. Bell explained that the library atmosphere is changing because the programs offered are driven by public demand, and unfortunately, some of those programs are noisy. Mr. Smith expressed his displeasure in the noise. Various board members explained that library's are serving as meeting places, social networking sites, and training centers. Although the library tries to manage the noise, libraries of today are not the same as in years past.

7. Board Member Comments

Moody: Congratulated Employee of the Month, Bernadette Dewyer, and thinks she does a fantastic job in the reading program. Mr. Moody also thanked the volunteers for our committee, thanked Ms. Bell for conducting another good meeting, and thanked Ms. Napsha for continuing to do a great job and for providing such a nice manual. Mr. Moody thanked the citizens that take time to come to meetings and give input. He wants them to know that their input is always welcome.

Durante: Thanked Bernadette Dewyer for being an outstanding Employee of the Month and thanked Ms. Kelly for excellent, detailed meeting minutes. Mr. Durante thanked Ms. Napsha for the Board of Trustees manual.

Rice: Congratulated Employee of the Month, Bernadette Dewyer. He thanked Ms. Kelly and Mr. Durante for agreeing to serve on the committee and thanked Ms. Kelly for outstanding meeting minutes. Mr. Rice commended Ms. Napsha on doing a great job. He sympathized with Mr. Smith on his desire to see library's remain quiet, study places but commended the mothers and fathers who take the time to bring their children into the library.

Kelly: Congratulated Employee of the Month, Bernadette Dewyer. Ms. Kelly was impressed with her citation. Ms. Kelly also thanked the staff of the Children's Department for the impressive number of volunteers and the effort taken to coordinate those volunteers. Ms. Kelly thanked Ms. Napsha for the new manual and the space for monthly minutes.

Bell: Also congratulated Bernadette Dewyer. Ms. Bell asked Ms. Napsha to thank the entire staff for the efforts on the Summer Reading Program and specifically thank Claire for coordination of the volunteers. Their efforts are appreciated. Ms. Bell liked the volunteer comments, too.

8. Next meeting topics

Mr. Durante requested a discussion about possibly starting the meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9. Adjournment

Motion by: Kelly

Support by: Durante

RESOLVED, to adjourn meeting @ 8:29 PM

Kelly - aye

Durante – aye

Rice – aye

Moody – aye

Bell - aye

Motion Carried