

Kinderhook Memorial Library
Minutes of the Board of Trustees' Meeting
February 1, 2010
Approved March 1, 2010

Present:

Dorothy Balko
Jennifer Birckmayer
Patti Easton
Lee Jamison
Julie Johnson, Director
Bill Laraway

Andrew Pellettieri
Gary Spielmann
Christian Sweningsen
Frank James Tuttle
Karen Vecellio
Michael Wheeler

Excused:

Bruce Charbonneau

Guest: Bonnie Shannon, Friends of Kinderhook Library

Meeting was called to order by Gary Spielmann at 7:03 p.m.

Announcements:

- Bruce Charbonneau has suffered a broken arm as a result of a skiing accident.
- A directory of Trustees was distributed. Changes were noted and a new version will be circulated.
- A list of committee appointments was distributed (attached)
- Feature story on Frank Serpico in *NY Times* showcases our library's many attractions

Motion: Jim moved, Andy seconded, motion passed to approve the minutes of the January 4, 2010 meeting

Friends of the Library

Bonnie reported that the Friends have given \$200. to MHLS for the Battle of the Books, and \$100 toward the cost of the bus for Lobby Day in Albany on March 2, 2010. The sale of books continues. On Sunday, January 31, guitarists John Dermont and Eric Erkinen performed in front of the fireplace at the library. 27 attendees enjoyed the concert and refreshments. On March 29, the library will host a meeting of the Alzheimer's support group. Warren Applegate has been a long-time supporter of the group.

Director's Report

Julie announced that the Finance committee has decided to open accounts with Amazon.com and Staples, in order to receive itemized bills. Julie is pleased that the Battle of the Books will be held at the Hudson City schools complex - a first for locating it in this part of the MHLS service area.

Motion: Jim moved, Lee seconded, motion passed to hire Stephanie Preston to work two weekends per month at the rate of \$9.50 per hour.

Treasurer's Report:

Mike distributed copies of the "Profit and Loss Budget vs. Actual" sheets and drew attention to the new format, which he hopes will be easier to follow. Decision made to delete "Gross Profit" reference from the document in the interests of clarity.

Motion: Lee moved, Karen seconded, motion passed to accept Bill Laraway's review of the check book details and credit card report.

Committee reports:

Building & Grounds

Dot reported that April 8 will be Clean-Up Day. Volunteers are needed for fence painting; Dot has contacted the National Honor Society and the Booster Club at I.C. High School to see if students are interested in volunteering. The B & G Committee has reviewed the architect's report and conducted a survey as they requested, including the perc test for the septic system. The survey revealed the need for attention to front and back trim, which have rotted through, and the attic fan which needs attention. The company which performed the energy audit did not mention the obvious need for insulation.

Finance

Motion: Jim moved, Andy seconded, motion passed that we invest \$30,000 from the investment account in short term CD's, as Mike suggested.

Mike suggested moving Trustee meetings to the second Monday of the month in order to have current monthly financial information available. Julie concurred as it would help with her reporting as well.

Fundraising

Bill welcomes suggestions for new ways to raise funds, in light of the demise of the Pi Restaurant. Gary suggested holding another cake sale which was very successful in prior years. Possible date: Mother's Day weekend.

Operations

Karen reported the Operations Committee had examined the architect's presentation in light of Julie and Dot's recommendations and had re-prioritized the list of needs compiled by Julie, Dot and staff.

21st Century Fund

Contributions have pushed the total raised to \$28,000, exceeding the goal by \$3,000.

Old Business:

Property Survey. Requested by BRMA to have a survey done as part of the Phase One Building Project. Gary has formally requested an estimate from Van Alstyne Surveying of Kinderhook.

MVB Portrait. John Brooke, historian at Ohio State University, is publishing a book entitled, *Columbia: Civil Life on the Upper Hudson from the Revolution to the Age of Jackson* and has requested permission from KML to use a photograph of the Martin Van Buren portrait that hangs over the north end fireplace. Permission has been granted for him to do so, provided the painting is not removed from the premises. Any contribution from the author to the library building fund will be gratefully received.

New Business: Jim moved, Mike seconded, motion passed. The Board authorizes the officers to approve the Annual Report of the Kinderhook Memorial Library, pending final approval by the entire board at the March 1 meeting.

Motion: Gary moved, Jim seconded, motion passed to recognize the following as official providers of service to the Kinderhook Memorial Library: *Hudson Register-Star* (newspaper of record), Kleeber Agency (insurance), Kinderhook Bank (banking), Trustco Bank (alternative bank), Anthony Scalzo (accountant), Merrill Lynch (investments), and Bill Better (attorney).

The remainder of the meeting focused on discussion of the presentation for the prospective renovation/expansion of the library by Paul Mays of BRMA. President Spielmann asked the Board to consider two primary questions: (1) What do we want the library to be? (2) How can we afford to have what we want?

Julie reported that the Roe-Jan/Hillsdale Library hired a fund-raiser and raised \$1.8 million dollars toward their new building. Jim presented a "Possible Expansion Funding Required" and raised three questions: (1) How much can the Board raise? (2) How much could we expect to raise through taxes (414)? (3) Can some economies be achieved that will still provide us what we think we need? The possibilities of eliminating the proposed large meeting room or the smaller "quiet room" were discussed as possible ways to reduce the cost. Concerns about parking for an expanded building were expressed. There was general consensus that we will have to hire a fund-raiser, but that we need to focus on other aspects (design and size) before engaging one. Gary asked the Building Committee to meet at least once before the Board's March meeting.

Motion: Jim moved, Patty seconded, motion passed to adjourn at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Birckmayer

Jennifer Birckmayer (for Bruce Charbonneau, secretary)