

THE OSSINING PUBLIC LIBRARY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

October 20, 2008

Attending: OPL trustees Peter Capek, Bob Minzesheimer, Mirla Morrison, Lucinda Manning, Samantha Brail, Reginald Bush, and Thomas Staudter; OPL director Beth Bermel; Ossining school district liaisons Alice Joselow and Bill Kress; and Michael Enright, web and Internet consultant for OPL.

President Capek called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM in the Board Room.

Agenda was okayed at the beginning of the meeting.

Minutes: A motion was made (Staudter, Bush) to approve the September 22, 2008 minutes. Unanimous.

Public comment: None.

Website presentation: Enright introduced the OPL's new website to the trustees and guests via a quick tour on a laptop computer. The work took four months and looks to be completed by the end of October. Barbara Lippe of the OPL staff designed the site. WLS server is site's home server. Video will be able to be uploaded to site. Spanish translation still to come. Enright said working with WLS on new website was a good experience. Capek asked about testing the site, which should be exhaustive. Enright said testing is taking place and will be completed in user environment. It is still to be decided whether Enright will be chosen to maintain the site, though OPL staffer Jimmy Trapasso will be in charge of day-to-day editing of site. Manning suggested a kid's page; one is forthcoming. Minzesheimer wants a place where staff can recommend books. A soft opening for the site will take place before it is announced to be up and running.

Edu-Tek: Bermel noted that Enright's presentation was unable to be shown through the projector in the boardroom because of continuing technical difficulties with the visual tech equipment. Edu-tek, the vendor of this equipment, has been tardy with requests for help with malfunctioning or possibly gummed up equipment. Capek will send them a stern letter on behalf of the OPL board, as OPL staff has gotten nowhere with phone calls and emails to the company.

Director's Report: Operating budget contains few surprises. Some personnel changes—Joyce Koyner is retiring, Chris Surovich has been promoted to a Librarian II position and Bermel is looking at the list of Librarian III candidates. Capek wants an accurate tally of the number of patron interactions performed by the Reference Desk and also wonders when the new library card will be ready. Morrison talked about the Latin Art presentation at the OPL and noted the tech equipment malfunctioned throughout the event. Bermel provided the board with an overview and short history of the Library Associates.

Trustees' Reports:

President—Capek talked about meeting with Ossining's Communities That care and a sub-group on space utilization. One idea being floated around is starting a coffeehouse for area's youth in the OPL café. Joselow commented that the teen programming at OPL is getting compliments around the community.

Building Project—Capek initiated discussion about putting in spotlights and extra lighting in the OPL theater; Filingeri, the electrical contractor, puts the estimate at about \$23,000. Settling the Beatty, Harvey bill was also discussed. Former trustee Lannert's assertion that Beatty, Harvey's LEED fee was excessive

led to the trustees agreeing that a final payment of approximately \$13,715 to Beatty, Harvey was in order, with OPL having earmarked \$10,864.64 toward the bill already.

Resolution—To pay the Filingeri and Beatty, Harvey bills, a motion was made (Capek, Staudter) to approve Resolution #3, an authorization to appropriate \$14,600 from the undesignated fund balance for the purpose of additional costs related to the construction of the new library—to wit, \$11,600 to Filingeri and \$3,000 to Beatty, Harvey. Unanimous.

Foundation—Morrison had no new information, but reported the foundation is not engaging in any new fundraising at this point.

Trouble with Boys panel—Bush noted that the book’s author, Peggy Tyre, was pleased with the panel and discussion that took place. The event was taped and will be available on DVD.

Construction Invoices: A motion to pay the following invoice was made (Staudter, Capek) and unanimously approved: \$13,715.38, pending the exact total, to Beatty, Harvey to close out their billing on the new library; and \$828.75 to Keane & Beane, P.C. Unanimous.

Old Business: Bermel remarked that the village citation against the school district regarding the alleged water runoff was dismissed in court. A neighboring property owner of the OPL is still claiming there is water damage to their yard being caused by the OPL construction. Bermel also noted that she learned from the state that the OPL can charge fees for events to recoup costs. A Program Committee is still in the formative stages. Conference Room naming was tabled; the board rather goes forward with commemorative plaques. Goals are being met.

New Business: Capek talked about how the troubled economy could affect the OPL budget. Bermel said that security costs will be cut next year.

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 PM was made (Staudter, Morrison) and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Staudter