

TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

The Board of Trustees of the Tenafly Public Library met on the above date at the Library for its monthly meeting.

Board Members Present: President Ellen Rochford, Vice President Kathleen Cook, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Ms. Jennifer B. Arlin, Mr. David DiGregorio, Dr. Everett Fergenson, Dr. Arthur Peck and Councilman Patrick Rouse.

Staff Present: Library Director Stephen Wechtler, Assistant Director Soon Juhng and Administrative Assistant Ann Marie Connolly.

Absent: Secretary/Treasurer Lynda Burke

Mrs. Rochford called the meeting to order at 8:00PM. Mr. Wechtler stated that notices of the meeting had been sent to local papers, Cablevision and were posted on the Library and Borough bulletin boards.

Board members approved the minutes of the Library Board meeting of June 12, 2006. Moved by Dr. Peck. Seconded by Mrs. Cook.

Correspondence

The Board discussed a letter dated June 20, 2006 from Senator Loretta Weinberg, Assemblyman Gordon M. Johnson and Assemblywoman Valerie Huttler, all of District 37, to Mr. Robert White, Executive Director of BCCLS. The mailing also included Mr. White's response to the government officials. Their letter supported the request of the town of Englewood Cliffs, who is not a member of the BCCLS program, to allow their residents to have the same full access that the 73 BCCLS member libraries enjoy. In his reply, Mr. White reiterated that this matter has been discussed at length for many years and the conclusion remains that all member libraries must be funded by their municipalities at the level of 1/3 mil per dollar of equalized valuation or better, as mandated by New Jersey State Law and in accordance with BCCLS Bylaws. Presently, Englewood Cliffs pays Englewood about \$40.00 per capita (20% less than the County average), well below the mandated funding level. As a result, Englewood Cliffs residents have access only to the Englewood Public Library, which fortunately for them is an outstanding resource. Mr. White also noted that 97% of the funding for library service in Bergen County comes from the local tax bills, not the County or the State. Therefore, protecting municipal assets is important to each of the 73 BCCLS members. For that reason, the importance of "no town subsidizing another" remains fundamental in Bergen County. The Board agreed with Mr. White that access to full BCCLS library services would require Englewood Cliffs to abide by the current regulations.

Board member Mabel Allen sent a note expressing her thanks and delight with the thoughtful gifts she received from the Board after her recent surgery.

The Board was grateful for the donation from Dr. Donald Kornfeld of a Teaching Company CD course entitled The Ethics of Aristotle.

In an e-mail dated June 22, 2006, former board member Karen Carter Robbins expressed her thanks for the generous gifts to the Parkinson's Unity Walk that were made in memory of her father.

Director's Report

The Board discussed the various drawings from architect Anthony Iovino of Arcari & Iovino, A.I.A. of a glass enclosure for the entrance to the Children's Room. Although Mr. Iovino affirms that all code and egress issues are met by the single door option, there was some Board concern and the double door option was seriously considered. Dr. Peck noted that he was not sure that choosing the design with two doors would provide any safer exit capability than the one door design. He felt that what is needed are good sight lines, a good plan and a staff who knows what to do if there is an emergency requiring quick evacuation in the Children's Room. Safety, ease of access and visibility were of utmost concern to Board members. Mr. Wechtler will contact Mr. Iovino to further discuss

the Board's concerns and also meet with the Tenafly Fire Inspector to ascertain his views and to confirm that he is in agreement with the architect that all codes are being met.

Mr. Wechtler reported the Library's audit report for 2005 from Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A., Certified Public Accountants. There were no findings and no recommendations. Mr. Wechtler and the Board thanked Administrative Assistant, Ann Marie Connolly for her valuable work in obtaining this most favorable audit. Throughout the year she works closely with the auditors, vendors and Finance Department on all budget and bookkeeping issues that go into our financial statements.

After discussion the Board approved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Tenafly approves the Financial Statements of the Library for the years ended December 31, 2005 and 2004 prepared by Ferraioli, Wielkocz, Cerullo & Cuva, P.A., Certified Public Accountants.

Moved by: Dr. Fergenson

Seconded by: Mrs. Cook

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen – Aye

Dr. Fergenson – Aye

Ms. Arlin – Aye

Dr. Peck – Aye

Mrs. Cook – Aye

Mrs. Rochford – Aye

Mr. DiGregorio - Aye

Councilman Rouse – Aye

In May of this year the Director of the Hasbrouck Heights Public Library, Michele Reutty, followed the State law and would not give out confidential information to law enforcement officials without being served the proper subpoena. She was severely criticized by certain Hasbrouck Heights officials for not turning over confidential records before a subpoena was presented. The backlash from Ms. Reutty's justifiable actions is still being felt. Accordingly, it was suggested that each library adopt a policy on the confidentiality of library records in accordance with the law and have it approved by their Library Board. After discussion the Library Board approved the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Tenafly approves of the Policy on Confidentiality of Library Records as presented by the Library Director.

Moved by: Dr. Fergenson

Seconded by: Ms. Arlin

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen – Aye

Dr. Fergenson – Aye

Ms. Arlin – Aye

Dr. Peck – Aye

Mrs. Cook – Aye

Mrs. Rochford – Aye

Mr. DiGregorio - Aye

Councilman Rouse – Aye

The Board received the Seraphim Fine Arts appraisal of the Harvey Dunn painting "Battle of the Bastille." It has been appraised at \$40,000. Mr. Wechtler informed Board members that the painting is covered by Borough insurance and security has been installed. He thanked Assistant Director Soon Juhng for her research which confirmed the 1921 date of the painting from its connection with that year's edition of A Tale of Two Cities.

Mr. Wechtler has accepted an invitation from Dr. Morton Sherman, Superintendent of Schools, to serve on a "Leadership Council." While the Leadership Council will not deal with specifics of running the school district, it will consider and give advice on broad district and educational issues including the Tenafly Public Schools' long range strategic plan, communication with the community about the schools, and cooperation with the borough and the community on programs. The council will meet once a month.

Other Business

The Board was invited to attend a special program for Library Trustees on Monday, October 23, 2006 at 6:30PM at the Secaucus Public Library to discuss "Patron Confidentiality and Public Libraries" and the 1/3 mill library funding law. Mr. Wechtler will accompany and drive anyone wishing to attend.

The schedule of Fall programs is posted at the entrance of the Library and is available as a handout at the desk. It is also listed on the Library and Borough websites and will be in the Borough Newsletter.

On Thursday, September 14 there was an artist's reception for Adele Grodstein from 7:00PM to 8:30PM in the Edna Kawulitzki Gallery.

The Library is preparing to lease a black/white and color copy machine from Continental Copy, Inc. It was agreed to keep the black/white copies at the current 15 cents per copy and set the color copies at .35 cents or .25 cents with either fee being below commercial services. It is anticipated that receipts will offset at least part of the \$206.91 per month cost of the lease.

Congressman Garrett's representative Brian Oberman has been at the Library as part of the Mobile Office program on the first Mondays of each month from 10:00AM to 12 noon. He meets in the public Friends of the Library Room and provides information and answers to Tenafly residents who have practical questions which usually relate to the prescription drug program, social security and veteran's affairs.

The Board expressed its appreciation to Sonja and David Errick for their successful mailing to Tenafly residents. Through their tremendous efforts the Friends of the Library have received over \$10,000 in dues and donations from the Friends mailing. This money is earmarked primarily for children's programs as well as some adult programming, media and books and special library items.

Assistant Director Soon Juhng was thanked by the Board for her outstanding work in presenting in our new display cases many books that have been challenged or banned at various times in U. S. history. Most of the books in the display were graciously lent to the library by Ben Levinsohn for this exhibit. The display has been presented in conjunction with ALA's Banned and Challenged Books week (September 23 – 30).

Mr. Wechtler mentioned that the lights installed to illuminate the east front of the Library are consistently pushed down into the grass so that they do not shine on the building. The Building Department is aware of the problem and on an ongoing basis raises the heavy fixtures up, but the task is never ending. It is agreed that lighting in this area is necessary and alternate lighting – perhaps atop a pole - is being considered by the Building Department.

Dr. Ferguson inquired about having students compete by writing essays about aspects of Tenafly history using the microfiche and computer resources of old Tenafly newspapers available in the Library. Mr. DiGregorio will bring the matter up again with the head of the Social Studies Department as part of the "Senior Options Program."

The meeting was adjourned at 9:12PM.

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be Monday, October 16, 2006 at the Library.

APPROVED: October 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Wechtler
Library Director