

**TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING**  
**MAY 9, 2011**

The Board of Trustees of the Tenafly Public Library met on May 9, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Library for its regular Board meeting.

Board Members Present: President Kathleen Cook, Vice President Patrick Rouse, Secretary/Treasurer Dr. Martin Gilbert, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Dr. Kenneth Altman, Mr. David DiGregorio, Mrs. Soon Juhng, Dr. Arthur Peck and Mrs. Ellen Rochford.

Staff Present: Library Director Gina Webb-Metz

Guest: Mr. Joey Shimm

Mrs. Cook called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Ms. Webb-Metz reported that notices of the meeting had been posted and sent to the media.

Board members approved the minutes of the regular Board meeting of April 11, 2011.  
Moved by Dr. Altman. Seconded by Mrs. Cook.

**Correspondence**

The Center for Food Action in Englewood thanked the Library for the donation of food collected during National Library Week when the Library promoted the Food for Fines program.

The New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Paramus thanked the Tenafly Public Library for the recent donation of books and books on tape following the Library Book Sale.

Tenafly resident and teacher Daryl Heller thanked the Library for the opportunity to add to her classroom library with the generous pricing of children's books at the Library Book Sale.

**Director's Report**

Ms. Webb-Metz reminded Board members of the upcoming BCCLS Trustee Orientation program on June 8, 2011 and of the Poetry Circle of Tenafly one year anniversary and High School Poetry Contest celebration here at the Library on Thursday, May 12.

Ms. Webb-Metz thanked Dr. Altman for helping to arrange the very successful May 1<sup>st</sup> concert *Brahms & Friends*. The concert was attended by approximately 85-90 people and featured the former Metropolitan Opera concert master Elmira Darvarova, Howard Wall a horn player with the New York Philharmonic and pianist Tomoko Kanamaru.

**President's Report**

President Kathleen Cook confirmed the success of the May 1<sup>st</sup> concert and thanked Dr. Altman.

**Citizens' Portion of the Meeting**

The meeting Agenda was adjusted to allow a member of the public, Joey Shimm of Sussex Avenue, to address the Board. Mr. Shimm shared the history of his conversations with Library Director Gina Webb-Metz regarding his interest in volunteering at the Library. He had originally offered to read to children in the Library and had been informed that the Library did not use volunteers in this capacity. A discussion had taken place regarding the possibility of his obtaining ESL training and volunteering as an ESL tutor at the Library. Mr. Shimm did obtain the ESL training but contacted Ms. Webb-Metz regarding reading with children at the Library. He was again informed that the Library did not use volunteers for this service.

Mr. Shimm appealed to the Board for an opportunity to work with children in the Library based on his experience in working with children who have learning disabilities. He shared that he is attuned to how learning disabilities can erode a child's self esteem. He stated an interest in reading with children in the Library on weekday evenings or Saturdays. He will await a response from the Board of Trustees.

The Board discussed the merits of the offer including the potential liability of an adult not employed by the Library working with children during hours of low staffing unsupervised by a staff member. The Board suggested the Director speak with the Children's Librarian to see if there is any assistance required during Library story hours.

Dr. Kenneth Altman left the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

### **Strategic Planning**

Dr. Martin Gilbert and Gina Webb-Metz are attending Strategic Planning Workshops sponsored by the New Jersey State Library and LibraryLinkNJ and conducted by the Ivy Group consultants. In preparation for the next meeting, Dr. Gilbert and Ms. Webb-Metz would like to have the Library Vision and Mission Statements completed and would like the Board to make a decision on the method the Library will use to survey the community.

The Board reaffirmed the *Mission Statement* originally passed on January 14, 2002:

The Tenafly Public Library is committed to providing timely and accurate reference and information services and a wide range of current books, audio-visual materials, and periodicals for all ages and interests, in a friendly and efficient manner. The Library emphasizes its role as a center for lifelong learning for all and as an educational support for the community's young people. The Library strives to work with parents and children, beginning at the pre-school level, to instill a love of books and a lifelong habit of reading.

The Board adopted the following *Vision Statement*:

Expanding the role of the Tenafly Public Library as a welcoming destination that provides our residents with materials and experiences for lifelong learning, information access, recreation and community building.

The Board discussed the potential methods of surveying the community for the strategic plan and agreed that the Library should pursue identifying a consulting firm to conduct a telephone survey of the Tenafly community regarding library services.

### **Council Liaison's Report**

None

### **Closed Session**

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m. to go into Closed Session to discuss Contract Negotiations and a personnel issue.  
Moved by: Patrick Rouse      Seconded by: Arthur Peck

The Closed session was adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Moved by: Arthur Peck      Seconded by: Ellen Rochford

The Board returned from Closed Session and adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Moved by: Arthur Peck      Seconded by: Kathleen Cook

Respectfully submitted,

The next regular meeting of the  
Library Board of Trustees will be  
Monday, June 13, 2011.

Dr. Martin Gilbert  
Secretary/ Treasurer  
Tenafly Library Board

APPROVED: June 13, 2011