

**TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
**MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**  
**January 12, 2009**

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

Board Members Present: President Ellen Rochford, Vice President Kathleen Cook, Secretary/Treasurer Lynda Burke, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Dr. Kenneth Altman, Mr. David DiGregorio and Councilman Patrick Rouse.

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

Board Members Absent: Dr. Everett Fergenson, Dr. Arthur Peck.

Mrs. Rochford called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. 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 December 8, 2008. Moved by: Mrs. Cook. Seconded by: Mrs. Rochford.

The election of Board officers for 2009 took place. The following were nominated:

**President** – Mrs. Ellen Rochford (moved by Ms. Burke, seconded by Mrs. Cook).

Elected unanimously.

**Vice President** – Mrs. Kathleen Cook (moved by Mrs. Rochford, Seconded by Ms. Burke). Elected unanimously.

**Secretary/Treasurer** – Ms. Lynda Burke (moved by Mrs. Cook, Seconded by Mrs. Rochford). Elected unanimously.

Councilman Rouse was reappointed for a one year term by Mayor Rustin and Mr. DiGregorio was reappointed for one-year term by School Superintendent, Dr. Eugene Westlake.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

On December 18, Ms. Olga Milanos donated \$58.31 for the purchase of the book Art of the Classical World in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in honor of Mr. Lou Lambron's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

In a letter of December 16, 2008, State Librarian Norma E. Blake of the NJ State Library informed all library directors that the Office of Management and Budget has called for a possible library cut of approximately \$4.2 million in the FY 2010 budget proposal (7/1/09 – 6/30/10). This is on top of more than a 5% cut in the 2009 budget and other cuts going back to FY 2002. This proposed cut is unprecedented. In addition to severe funding cuts, there is concern about library closures and other issues related to the dedicated library tax, library give-backs and libraries under the cap. Mr. Wechtler will keep the Board informed of developments and strategies being suggested by the NJ State Library.

The League of Municipalities has passed a resolution calling for a reduction in minimum funding for libraries from 1/3 to 1/6 of a mil – a 50% reduction in the minimum funding level. The League is requesting its members to pass this resolution at the local level. If this becomes law and is implemented, many BCCLS libraries would become so weakened that many of their library services could disappear. This would be especially painful for the public in these difficult economic times when public library use is significantly up in all areas. Mr. Wechtler said it is quite likely that the BCCLS system of 75 libraries, based on reciprocity and shared services and heavily utilized by Tenafly residents, would cease to exist. He stated that libraries could see reductions in services, open hours, delivery of resources, programs and more. In response to the League's resolution to change the minimum library funding level, the New Jersey Library Association Board has created a model resolution to assist library boards who wish to take action at this time. Following discussion the Board approved the resolution as follows:

**Whereas** the New Jersey League of Municipalities ("League") passed a resolution, at its 2008 annual conference, to seek to reduce the minimum funding level for New Jersey municipal public libraries from 1/3 mil to 1/6 mil of equalized assessed valuation, and has forwarded that resolution to the Legislature (2008-03 Resolution Recommending Amendment Regarding Tax Levies for Free Public Libraries); and

**Whereas** municipal public libraries have been established at the direction of its citizens through a binding referendum which specified the minimum funding level at 1/3 of a mil and

**Whereas** public libraries are vital community centers providing essential services to the residents of their municipalities, even more so during these difficult economic times; and

**Whereas** the current funding formula for municipal libraries has endured for over 100 years providing a stable source of tax support for municipal library services;

**Whereas** the resolution proposed by the League would critically weaken the foundation of library services in New Jersey by drastically reducing the minimum funding level which would directly impact library services;

**Whereas** the fiscal hardships facing many residents and businesses require access to key information resources available in New Jersey's free public libraries, such as access to computers for educational or business needs, or to find jobs and other opportunities; and increases the use of the other services of the public library, such as borrowing books and other media or attending programs for children and the entire family;

**Now therefore be it resolved by the Board of Trustees** ("Board") of the Tenafly Free Public Library assembled in open public meeting on January 12, 2009 that said Board protests the action of the League in adopting Resolution 2008-03 and forwards this resolution to the League, to the state Senator and the Assembly persons representing the district in which the Tenafly Public Library is located;

In addition, this Board asks the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Tenafly to also adopt a formal resolution in protest of the League's Resolution 2008-03 and that both the Board and the Mayor and Council forward their resolutions to the League, to the state Senator and the Assembly persons representing the district in which the Library is located;

**And be it further resolved** that the Board recommends and urges that the elected and appointed officials of the Borough of Tenafly take every possible step to persuade the Legislature and the Governor not to adopt the League's position.

Moved by: Dr. Altman

Seconded by: Mrs. Cook

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen - Aye

Mr. DiGregorio - Aye

Dr. Altman - Aye

Mrs. Rochford - Aye

Ms. Burke - Abstain

Councilman Rouse - Abstain

Mrs. Cook - Aye

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **HVAC**

Mr. Wechtler is awaiting a supplementary report from Paul Riccobono of Conditioning Control Systems, Inc. This report will provide us with a more detailed description of the work and equipment he proposes to use for the Library's HVAC project and should serve as the conceptual basis for a mechanical engineering firm to prepare a full technical specification for public bidding. Frank Mottola, Director of the Department of Buildings, is requesting quotes from mechanical engineering firms.

### **BOOKSALE**

After discussion the Library Spring Booksale was scheduled for Friday through Sunday, April 17, 18 and 19 in the McCandless Room.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Harlin Reese of Wood Artisans, Inc. of Norwood is presently working on two projects in the Children's Room. The first is capping the seven metal bookcases with wood tops including shelves to provide more shelving and display area at a cost of \$3,750. The second is building a wooden bookcase on the right entrance wall to the Children's Room 8" deep x 72" high x 14'4" long. The shelves will be adjustable and of solid maple wood stained to match the other wood area in the Library at a cost of \$4,900. Both projects are to be funded by the John Wilcox Fund.

The Board discussed the comparison chart provided by Mr. Wechtler outlining the marked increase of patron usage of the Library from 2007 to 2008 in all areas – circulation, inquiries on BCCLS, reciprocal loan packages, new library cards issued, reference questions asked and attendance at library programs.

Board President Ellen Rochford referred Board members to an article from the New York Times of 1-12-09 which states that fiction reading has increased for adults. The statistics are based on data from “The Survey of Public Participation in the Arts” conducted by the United States Census Bureau in 2008

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m. Moved by: Councilman Rouse. Seconded by: Mrs. Rochford.

Respectfully submitted,

The next regular meeting of the  
Library Board of Trustees will be  
Monday, February 9, 2009  
at the Library.

Stephen R. Wechtler  
Library Director

APPROVED: February 9, 2009