

TENAFLY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
JUNE 8, 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: Vice President Kathleen Cook, Secretary/Treasurer Lynda Burke, Mrs. Mabel Allen, Dr. Kenneth Altman, Mr. David DiGregorio, Dr. Everett Ferguson, Dr. Arthur Peck and Councilman Patrick Rouse.

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

Board Members Absent: President Ellen Rochford

Mrs. Cook 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 April 13, 2009. Moved by: Dr. Altman, Seconded by: Mrs. Cook. Board members approved the minutes of May 11, 2009. Moved by: Dr. Altman, Seconded by: Dr. Peck.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Wechtler distributed New Jersey Library Trustee Association membership cards to Board members.

Ms. Martha Kleinlaut, President of the Norwood Senior Citizens Club and Ms. Dolores Alfis, Director of The James F. McGuire Memorial Senior Citizens Center in Northvale, sent letters of thanks for the donation of books and media to their centers. These items were left over on April 19 after the booksale. Many thanks were extended to Tenafly volunteer Ms. Lorraine Kapakjian for coordinating the pickup and delivery of a large portion of booksale materials.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Rochford sends her best wishes and thanks for the many good wishes she has received while recovering from her recent illness. She is keeping up to date with all Library correspondence and wishes everyone an enjoyable summer.

Mr. Robert White, Executive Director of BCCLS, reported in an email of June 1, 2009 that Senator Stack has withdrawn S.2775, which would have cut the minimum funding for public libraries in half (1/3 mill to 1/6 mill). More than 2,200 messages were sent in specific opposition to S.2775. Mr. White thanked the Hoboken Public Library Board of Trustees (JoAnne Serrano, President), the Friends of the Hoboken Library, and Library Director Lina Podles for their efforts in opposition to S.2775. Library Champions now represent all 75 BCCLS member libraries and more than 900 members have signed up. The 2009 goal is 2,000 champions from BCCLS libraries. Mr. Wechtler urged all Board members to sign up as Library Champions.

Mr. Wechtler showed the Board a picture, "Birth of Our Nation's Flag," that Mr. Herbert Grodin of Tenafly wishes to donate to the Library. It shows a certificate from the American Flag House and Betsy Ross Memorial Association issued in 1905. This historic document has a vignette of George Washington, Hon. George Ross, Robert Morris and Betsy Ross. After discussion the Board agreed that the picture could be used for exhibits at the Library. The Board expressed its appreciation to Mr. Grodin and asked Mr. Wechtler to accept this gift with the understanding that the Library reserved the right to use or sell the picture as it saw fit.

Mr. Wechtler reported on the Library's HVAC project. Omdex Engineering has not yet delivered the detailed specifications needed for the project to go to public bid although engineer Milton Azous has been assigned as project manager. Mr. Wechtler expressed concern that the project is moving too slowly. He has been working with Mr. Frank Mottola, Director of the Department of Buildings, to expedite completion of the technical bid documents so the project can move forward. At this point, OMDEX perceives the need for VAV boxes/VFD's in motors. A meeting may be able to resolve this. If not, OMDEX should specify a modified design alternative which can

be used to go out to bid. After further discussion, the Board emphasized that the HVAC project be expedited with as much speed as possible. Mr. Wechtler will keep the Board informed over the summer.

The Board carefully deliberated and discussed the request of the Mayor and Council that the Library establish a hiring freeze for the remainder of year 2009. Because of the fundamentals of library funding which include the law and bylaws of BCCLS, copies of which were given to the Mayor and Council, the Board passed the following resolution:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT: The Board of Trustees of the Free Public Library of the Borough of Tenaflly after careful deliberation and extensive discussion of all aspects of the current fiscal crisis and the importance of the relationship between the Borough and the Library, resolve that we have no choice but to decline the hiring freeze request of the Borough of Tenaflly.

Moved by: Dr. Altman

Seconded by: Dr. Peck

Voting as follows:

Mrs. Allen - Aye
Dr. Altman - Aye
Ms. Burke - Aye
Mrs. Cook - Aye

Mr. DiGregorio - Aye
Dr. Fergenson - Aye
Dr. Peck - Aye
Councilman Rouse - Nay

OTHER BUSINESS

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. Moved by: Mrs. Cook. Seconded by: Councilman Rouse.

Respectfully submitted,

The next regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees will be **Monday, September 14, 2009** at the Library.

Stephen R. Wechtler
Library Director

APPROVED: September 14, 2009