

Deerfield Public Library Board of Trustees
Regular meeting minutes
January 16, 2008

1. ROLL CALL AND CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:14. Present: Board members: President Pro Tem Ken Abosch. Marla Bark Dembitz, Sunday Mueller, Michael Goldberg. Village Board Liaison Bill Seiden. Staff: Library Director Mary Pergander.

2. OPPORTUNITY FOR THE PUBLIC TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

Library patron Helen Degen Cohen expressed appreciation for the library, staff, and collections. She also expressed concern about some of the titles that have been recently weeded, and brought several examples she had purchased from our used book sale. She has interviewed librarians at other libraries who told her they follow the same procedures in those libraries. Nevertheless, she feels librarians should utilize the opinions of community members who are experts in various fields before deleting titles. Ms. Pergander, who spoke with Ms. Cohen previously, offered to meet with her in the near future to continue discussing her concerns.

3. CONSENT AGENDA AND MINUTES

The minutes were removed from the consent agenda for further discussion. Ms. Dembitz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Mueller, to approve the consent agenda without the minutes. The motion was approved.

Ms. Pergander read an email from Mr. Simon with the following correction to the minutes: The sentence "Request to bar patron for one year" should say "Request to bar patron from the Internet for one year." Mr. Goldberg made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Ms. Dembitz seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

4. TREASURER'S REPORT

Ms. Mueller made a motion to approve checks 2913 through 2974 in the total amount \$44405.68 Seconded by Ms. Dembitz.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Marla Bark Dembitz – yes, Ken Abosch – yes, Michael Goldberg – yes, Sunday Mueller – yes.

The Finance Committee will meet on Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at 5 pm in the lower level conference room to discuss the draft budget for 2009, investing in CDs, and the recent Funds crisis in Florida and other states.

5. LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The following highlights from the written report were noted: The local Rotary Club is giving us a grant for the Reading Warriors program. New youth librarian Meg Anthony is doing an excellent job already! All employees now fill out timesheets. They will also have a record on their check stubs of available vacation and other accrued hours. All full time employees now work 37.5 rather than 35 hours per pay period. There have been several discrepancies in the daily money counts. There have also been two thefts in staff areas. The police have been notified and we are cooperating with their investigation. The lighting conversion project begins next week.

6. VILLAGE LIAISON REPORT

Village Trustee Bill Seiden presented an update of activities in the Village.

7. STRATEGIC PLAN DISCUSSION

Ms. Pergander reported that the RFP for architectural planning services has not been completed. It is doubtful we will be conducting site visits in February as originally planned.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Personnel Manual - Ms. Pergander discussed the final recommendations regarding three policies: Breaks, Sick days, and Holidays. Ms. Dembitz made a motion to accept the personnel manual as originally proposed in November with the addition of the recommended language related to breaks, holidays and sick days. Seconded by Ms. Mueller. The motion was approved by the following vote:

Marla Bark Dembitz – yes, Ken Abosch – yes, Michael Goldberg – yes, Sunday Mueller – yes.

The new manual will be launched at the Staff Meeting which takes place for a half day on January 25.

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request for reconsideration from barred patron. Mr. Abosch made a motion to continue to maintain the ban due to no apparent modification (improvement) in the situation. Further, the motion recommended that a letter be written to the patron including language requesting evidence of medical certification if the patron wishes to reapply for reconsideration next year. Further, the patron is to communicate with the Director or Board only via mail, email or phone. The motion was seconded by Ms. Mueller. Ms. Pergander will obtain legal advice in creating the letter.

The motion was approved by the following vote:

Marla Bark Dembitz – yes, Ken Abosch – yes, Michael Goldberg – yes, Sunday Mueller – yes.

B. Vandalism – Following the third incident of vandalism of its type in the same place in a six month period, and considering that there have been recent thefts, the Deerfield Police department requested that the director discuss with the Board the possibility of placing security cameras in limited locations within the library. The Board asked Ms. Pergander to bring a specific proposal including costs, locations, and uses, as well as information about other local public buildings and their security camera use, to a future meeting. Bringing a police officer as a guest to discuss the matter was also suggested.

C. Newspaper article – The Deerfield Review will be featuring an article quoting Mr. Simon and Ms. Courtney about the potential building project. Ms. Pergander was also interviewed.

Ms. Dembitz made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ms. Mueller. The motion was approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.