

MINUTES OF THE LIBRARY BOARD

February 25, 2015 Meeting

Conference Room-West Allis Public Library
7421 W National Avenue

Mrs. Mikolajewski called the February 25, 2015 Library Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Fischer-Toerpe, Ms. Johns-Konkol, Mrs. Karrels, Mrs. Mikolajewski,
Mr. Thomson, Ms. Wadewitz, Ms. Wenzel

Excused: Ms. Suelzer, Alderperson Probst

Staff present: Michael Koszalka, Library Director
Lisa VandenBoom, Librarian IV
Pat Graf, Librarian II

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Karrels moved to accept the minutes of the January 28, 2015 meeting as received.
Second by Ms. Wadewitz. Motion carried.

Statements by Citizens

None.

(Mr. Fischer-Toerpe present at this point)

Correspondence

A copy of a letter from the Greater Milwaukee Foundation to Michael Koszalka, Library Director, dated January 2015 was noted. The letter is attached to the 2014 statement. The Irv H. Terchak Endowment Fund ended the year at \$1,154,790.94.

A letter from Michael Koszalka, Library Director, to Senator Tim Carpenter, dated February 3, 2015 was noted. It states, "On behalf of the West Allis Public Library Board of Trustees and library staff I want to express our sincere gratitude for honoring our library by adjourning the session of the Wisconsin State Senate on January 13, 2015 as an acknowledgement of appreciation to the staff of the West Allis Public Library."

A letter sent by Michael Koszalka, Library Director, to Representative Joe Sanfelippo dated February 9, 2015 was noted. It states, "February 17, 2015 is Wisconsin Library Legislative Day and I am writing you about issues that deeply affect the types of quality services offered by the state's public libraries."

Reports- Claims and Finance

The Board reviewed the February Claims and Finance Report. Ms. Wenzel moved to accept the report as written, including the acceptance of Claim Numbers 04522 to 04566 for a total of \$171,593.38. Second by Ms. Wadewitz. Motion carried.

New Business

1. Resolution honoring Patricia Graf for her years of service

The Board reviewed the resolution honoring Pat Graf. Mr. Fischer-Toerpe moved to accept the resolution as presented. Second by Ms. Wenzel. Motion carried.

(Pat Graf left at this point)

2. MCFLS Update

MCFLS sent out a survey to all member libraries as the first step in their long range planning process.

The library now subscribes to Zinio, the digital magazine resource.

3. State Annual Report Form, "Statement Concerning Public Library System Effectiveness"

The Board discussed this section of the State Annual Report that requires the Board to state whether its library system did or did not provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library. Mr. Fischer-Toerpe moved that the Board respond by indicating that MCFLS did not provide effective leadership and adequately meet the needs of the library. Second by Ms. Wenzel. Motion carried. The Board directed staff to complete the section as follows: "The West Allis Public Library Board of Trustees remains concerned about equitable governance on the part of MCFLS. The West Allis Public Library Board strongly endorses bi-partisan and impartial governing of the MCFLS Board. This was not reflected in the makeup of the MCFLS Board with little representation from the southeast suburban portions of the county system. Additionally, the West Allis Public Library Board was disappointed in the lack of leadership and support from MCFLS regarding an erroneous and baseless issue promulgated by the Hales Corners Public Library. MCFLS allowed the Hales Hales Corners Library to continue to misrepresent facts and bode ill will. It is imperative that in 2015 – an important system contract year – that MCFLS step-up and take a leadership role in assuring that an equitable and fair approach is adhered to as a new system contract is negotiated.

4. Trustee Essentials, Chapter 24- Library Friends and Library Foundations

The Board reviewed key elements in this chapter.

Director's Report

- On March 5th from 5:30-7:30 representatives from Graef will be in the Constitution Room to gather input on the National Avenue Corridor Plan expected to begin in 2018.
- On Sunday, February 1st the decision was made to not open the library. The library truck with plow was not functioning and the Department of Public Works could not clear the parking lot.
- The West Allis-West Milwaukee School District Director of Student Services, Dan Weast, and West Allis Central Assistant Principal Paul Bursi have been working with the library to discipline teens who are disruptive in the library. This has led to an improvement in teen behavior.
- Panic buttons have been installed at the Checkout and Information desks. These will be connected to police dispatch and will only be engaged during an active shooter or other serious event.
- Our Harry Potter event attracted over 100 attendees.
- Katie Jentges was promoted from a .5 Librarian I position to full time. Recruitment for the .5 position will begin soon. The library is also recruiting for the Adult Library Intern position.
- Circulation increased 4 % in January.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Fischer-Toerpe moved to adjourn. Second by Ms. Wadewitz. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Karrels, Secretary