

June 21, 2010

- I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL: The Board of Trustees of the Wheaton Public Library held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, June 21, 2010, in the Library Board Room. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m. by the President, Colleen McLaughlin. Members present at roll call were: Mr. Armstrong, Ms. Grabowski, Mrs. Honeywell, Mrs. Kienzle, Mr. Kyle, Ms. McLaughlin, Mrs. Peterson, Mr. Redlich and Mrs. Slater. Absent: None. Mrs. Sarah Meisels, Library Director, and Mrs. Carolyn DeAre, Assistant Library Director, were also present. Ms. McLaughlin appointed Mr. Redlich Secretary Pro Tem.
- II. Citizens to be Heard: Mr. Bruce Fogerty, 1965 Lancaster, Wheaton, attended the meeting. He addressed the Board stating that he uses the Library a lot, and he encourages the Library Board to reconsider the decision to close on Fridays.
- III. Minutes of the May 17, 2010 Board Meeting: Mr. Kyle moved and Mrs. Peterson seconded that the minutes of the regular Board meeting of May 17, 2010 be approved.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Grabowski
Mrs. Honeywell
Mrs. Kienzle
Mr. Kyle
Ms. McLaughlin
Mrs. Peterson
Mr. Redlich
Mrs. Slater

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- IV. Treasurer's Report for May 2010 and Bill Listing for June 2010 Payment: Mrs. Meisels commented. Tax receipts are not received until June, so we are using our carry-over balance for May expenses. June bills to be paid total approximately \$73,489, with \$41,568 of that going for our annual payment to Innovative Interfaces, whose systems run all our in-house library operations: online check-in and check-out, holds, overdues, online catalog, etc. Mr. Kyle moved and Mrs. Slater seconded that the Treasurer's Report for May 2010 and the Bill Listing of June 2010 payment, including the supplemental bill listing, be approved.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Grabowski
Mrs. Honeywell
Mrs. Kienzle
Mr. Kyle
Ms. McLaughlin
Mrs. Peterson
Mr. Redlich
Mrs. Slater

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- V. Library Director's Report for May 2010: This was a typical May, with circulation and gate count on a par with May of 2009. Notably, however, the number of reference questions was up by 16%, and the number of holds placed increased by 21%. We had more reciprocal borrowers in here; they checked out 12% more than last year. The LAN database searches increased by 92% and Web database searches by 69%. Kate Mallon gave tours and instruction using the online catalog to 32 World Relief students and accompanying teachers this month. She also talked about the services the library offers to new learners of English (90 students, along with parents and teachers). Erika DeLeon translated a library brochure about our services into Spanish for distribution at this event. Mrs. Meisels pointed out that we have a number of employees on staff who can speak other languages; Erika DeLeon is fluent both in Spanish and English from birth. "Pride in Preservation" with Wheaton as the theme was the theme of the exhibits in the museum and tall glass cases this month. Programs for the month included: the Annual Meeting of Friends of the Library with 60 in attendance on May 13th; a feature film, "The Time Traveler's Wife," offered in partnership with the Wheaton Park District to 57 adults; 10 attended a moving power point presentation on the 20th about "Honor Flight Chicago." Wheaton resident and World War II veteran Ken Ridgway told about his trip to Washington, D.C. to see the World War II Memorial. The Kaplan Free SAT Practice Exam was taken by 10 students on the 22nd. There was also good attendance at our monthly book discussion sessions.

Eileen Stewart Crowley offered technology classes to 54 students in May. She also attended a Webinar about the latest version of Summer Reader Software, which we are using for the YA Summer Reading Program. Dawn Kovacs hosted the DLS/IUG meeting, which was a follow-up to the big annual meeting of Innovative Interfaces, which this year was held in Chicago. She also attended a technology meeting hosted by TBS, the resellers of PC Preservation, Summer Reader Software, etc. New products demonstrated included a book scanner that is intended to replace photocopy machines, and e-commerce software intended to replace cash registers. The Children's Dept. reports that staff visited Washington, Madison, Lincoln and Emerson schools in May and promoted the Summer Reading Club to 1,350 students. In-house classroom visits gave the message to 163 students from St. Michael, Sandburg, Hawthorne and Longfellow. There was also a nature-telling program for 12 children 2-5 years old about frogs presented by a naturalist from Lincoln Marsh.

- VI. Communications: Mrs. Meisels read several communications received recently. A resident wrote in support of the Library Board's decision, "Please pass along my message of thanks to the Trustees for their willingness to make a tough choice and work to keep the budget balanced...At the same time, would you also please share my sympathy with and support for the staff who are facing cuts in their income?" A resident wrote a complimentary note about Children's staffer, Wendy Fonte, who went the extra mile to help her find the books she was looking for. Beth Rupert received a note of thanks for attending Visually Impaired Awareness Day and presenting information about the devices and services we have for people who need them. And Vocational Coordinator Sally Pasaglia, Wheaton North High School, wrote to thank us for our participation in the job training program for students with special needs. Another resident wrote in agreeing with the library's decision to close on Fridays, stating that the City officials don't know very much about library operations.
- VII. Friends of the Library Report: Carolyn DeAre reported. The Friends Garden Day Sale, held on May 22nd,

netted \$2,934.00. The June concert had to be held inside because of the rain; we had about 60 in attendance. The annual Friends Book Sale will be held the last week in September. The suggestion has been put forth that we could also have a donated art sale, perhaps in conjunction with the Better Book Sale usually held early in November.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

- A. Report of the Finance Committee: Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Armstrong: Ms. McLaughlin reported that she and Mr. Armstrong had met with Mayor Gresk and City Manager Don Rose on Friday, June 18th. Ms. McLaughlin reported that on the suggestion of Councilman Suess, she had written a letter to the Mayor providing exact costs for Friday opening. She asked for additional funds so the library could reopen after Labor Day and indicated that if additional funds were insufficient to fully cover the costs, the library would have to dip into its carry-over balance to a greater extent. Since there is concern about maintaining an adequate carry-over balance into 2010 -2011 and the long-term viability of the library, she asked in her letter for assurances that the library would be guaranteed a sufficient carry-over balance for next year.

Ms. McLaughlin and Mr. Armstrong reported that the primary focus of the meeting with the Mayor and City Manager was not additional funding, as both of them had expected it to be. At the meeting, it was agreed that communications between the library and the city needed to improve and to some extent the air was cleared. The Mayor said he was concerned about the staff speaking out on the funding issue and the content of the handouts available at the check-out desks. Ms. McLaughlin indicated that she would address the staff issue and further advised that members of our board found statements appearing in the press that the board had "refused" to look at alternatives to Friday closings very offensive as that statement is blatantly not true. Further, Ms. McLaughlin advised the Mayor and Mr. Rose that the threat to replace board members who are just doing their jobs, but happen to disagree with the Council, does not help matters. Both Mayor Gresk and Mr. Rose admitted that they know nothing about library administration but Mr. Rose thought it would be helpful to see the various materials/analyses we had done to arrive at our decision. Ms. McLaughlin asked what purpose that would serve other than to second-guess the Library Board. She noted that it is legally up to the Library Board to make such decisions, since they are familiar with library operations, and asked again for the Council to let the Board do its job.

With respect to the additional funding, the Mayor and the City Manager were non-committal. They are concerned that the City might lose 1.3 million in income tax rebates from the State of Illinois in which case additional cuts might happen. Mr. Rose said they will not know until the end of the year if this will happen. The Mayor suggested that the library explore alternative ways to raise money but, Ms. McLaughlin pointed out it would be unlikely that fundraisers in the community could ever raise enough money to make up for the size of the cuts the Council has imposed on us. Mr. Armstrong stated that it was a cordial meeting, but that he did not believe additional funds were in the cards.

Mr. Kyle asked about the Council's upcoming planning session. Ms. McLaughlin said she spoke to the Mayor about the Board reappointments. She is concerned that without timely appointments, there may not be a quorum at the July Board meeting. The Mayor thought current Board members could continue to stay on, but there is a question in her mind as to whether that is legal. She will check on this.

Ms. McLaughlin stated that while giving her brother a tour of the library, they had a chance to observe the Reading with Rover program, which was delightful. She also had a chance to talk with some more staff members about the effect of Friday closings on them and the public. She indicated that the public is being very supportive of the Library and that the thoroughness of our explanation to the public as to why we are having to close on Fridays has been very well received.

IX. New Business:

- A. Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers 2010 – 2011: Mrs. Kienzle reported on the recent meeting of the Nominating Committee and put in nomination the following slate of officers for 2010 – 2011:

Board President	Colleen McLaughlin
Board Vice-President	Mike Redlich
Board Treasurer	Don Armstrong
Board Secretary	Stacy Slater

Mrs. Honeywell seconded the nominations.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Armstrong
 Ms. Grabowski
 Mrs. Honeywell
 Mrs. Kienzle
 Mr. Kyle
 Ms. McLaughlin
 Mrs. Peterson
 Mr. Redlich
 Mrs. Slater

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- B. Appointment of Committee Members – Ms. McLaughlin: Ms. McLaughlin indicated that she had not had sufficient time to think about this, because of other issues she has had to deal with. She will defer her committee decisions except for the Finance Committee to the July Board meeting. She is appointing the following to continue on the Finance Committee:

Mr. Armstrong, Chair
 Mr. Redlich
 Mrs. Honeywell

Ms. Grabowski moved to approve the reappointment of the above mentioned members to the Finance Committee for 2010 – 2011, and Mr. Redlich seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Grabowski
Mrs. Honeywell
Mrs. Kienzle
Mr. Kyle
Ms. McLaughlin
Mrs. Peterson
Mr. Redlich
Mrs. Slater

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried Unanimously

- C. Recognition of Martin Kyle's Years of Service to the Library Board: Ms. McLaughlin read out loud a proclamation in recognition of Mr. Kyle's 14 years of service on the Library Board of Trustees.

"WHEREAS, Martin Kyle has served with distinction as officer and member of the Wheaton Public Library Board of Trustees for 14 years;

WHEREAS, Martin Kyle, during those 14 years, gave generously of his time and served faithfully and staunchly the interests of the Wheaton Public Library in the community, as to the following particulars:

1. That Martin Kyle did render outstanding service to the Wheaton Public Library as Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee for 7 years from 1997 to 2002, and again from 2007 to 2009; and also as President of the Library Board of Trustees for 5 years, from 2002 to 2007, during which time the library underwent an extensive building project that increased the size of the building from 72,000 sq. ft. to 124,500 sq. ft.;
2. That Martin Kyle, both as Treasurer and Board President, did work diligently with the annual library budgets and their presentation to enable the Wheaton Public Library to offer quality services to the residents of Wheaton in a fiscally responsible manner;
3. That Martin Kyle has served as spokesman for the library before City Council on numerous occasions in regard to library financial matters and has worked selflessly since the completion of the building project for the continued financial viability of the library during difficult financial conditions;
4. That Martin Kyle did at all times work to uphold the standards of modern public library service of the highest quality, both as Treasurer and as President;

5. That Martin Kyle has always been supportive of all Board decisions, the goals of the library, and the efforts of the Library Director and the Staff in order that the library might uphold its service standards as a valuable educational and cultural asset to the community of Wheaton;

6. That Martin Kyle has made many valuable hours available to the library at the expense of his personal time, showing his dedication to the library, to the community and to the principles of informed and selfless public service.

7. That Martin Kyle did all the afore-mentioned duties and services with an unflinching sense of humor and fairness and always for the GOOD OF THE CAUSE.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees of the Wheaton Public Library, for themselves, for the Library Director and Staff, and for all the residents of the City of Wheaton, express heartfelt thanks to Martin Kyle for his devotion to the ideal of excellence in public library service for the benefit of his fellow man and the community.

Dated this 21st day of June, 2010.”

An engraved crystal book was presented to Mr. Kyle as a remembrance from the Library Board and in recognition of the outstanding service as Board President and as Treasurer he has rendered to the Library and the community during that time. Everyone offered their best wishes and the hope that Mr. Kyle would not forget us.

- D. Round the Table: Mr. Kyle urged everyone to be informed and to be involved. Ms. McLaughlin referred everyone to the report from the Gates Foundation that Don Armstrong circulated entitled: Library Connect Communities: Public Library Funding & Technology Access Study 2009 – 2010 and noted that the study identifies a core service of public libraries as being a community technology hub, a concept the City Council seems not to understand. The report further found that a large percentage of public libraries are the only source of free public access to computers and the internet in their communities. Libraries ensure access to online government services; support digital literacy and lifelong learning – which are all core library services per this report, and these are all core services provided by the WPL. The study also points out that access to library services has been declining because of decreased hours of operation caused by budget cuts. Ms. McLaughlin pointed out that our problems are not unique; our solution of reducing library hours is not unique. Given the circumstances, Ms. McLaughlin said she felt it was the best solution, and she expressed hope that we'll weather the storm. Ms. Grabowski said she was impressed with the spirit and the way people accept our Friday closing. It shows that the public has respect for and trust in the library administration.

Board members thanked Ms. McLaughlin for carrying the library message to City Hall.

- X. Adjournment: There being no further business of the Library Board of Trustees, Mr. Kyle moved and Mrs. Peterson seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: Mr. Armstrong
Ms. Grabowski

Mrs. Honeywell
Mrs. Kienzle
Mr. Kyle
Ms. McLaughlin
Mrs. Peterson
Mr. Redlich
Mrs. Slater

Nays: None

Absent: None

Motion Carried Unanimously at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Redlich
Secretary Pro Tem