Dearborn Heights Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
January 10, 2008

Chairman Tim Powers called the meeting to order at 7:35 PM at the Caroline Kennedy Library.

Present: Chairman Powers, Vice Chairwoman Emmy Peck, Eulalia Colon, Sherry Kosko, Secretary John Zadikian.

Absent: JFK Supervising Librarian Michael Wrona (excused).

Also present: Library Director Michael McCaffery, City Council Liaison Janet Badalow.

Chairman Powers offered the Board's congratulations to Mr. McCaffery upon his promotion to Library Director.

Motion by Mrs. Kosko, supported by Mrs. Peck, to approve the November 15, 2007, minutes as presented, with two corrections - the addition of Chairman Powers to the "Present" list, and changing the word "head" to "heard" regarding a communication handled by Mr. McCaffery. Motion carried.

Communications:

From Michael McCaffery, a letter from Marwa(h) Ayache, a Riverside Middle School fifth grader. The letter was part of a class project, and expressed her enjoyment of the library.

From Michael McCaffery, regarding proposed changes by the State of Michigan to the model that determines support for public libraries. The proposed changes are still in committee, and are being considered to make the model more equitable for everyone. Mr. McCaffery said the proposal is in the preliminary stages, with many questions but not many answers. He added The Library Network (TLN) is restructuring now to prepare for the changes, and to focus more on shared services and technology. A general discussion among Board members of the possible ramifications of these changes garnered a largely negative feeling.

From Michael McCaffery, three recent Press & Guide articles/columns covering activities at the libraries.

There were no reports of the Standing or Special committees, or from the Chair. Congratulations from the Board were once again expressed to Mr. McCaffery for his promotion to Library Director.

Report of the Library Director:

Mr. McCaffery offered the following updates/occurrences since our November meeting, all of which prompted a general discussion among Board members:

- The popularity of events was up for the calendar year, and when comparing 4Q 2007 to 4Q 2006
- Public computer training classes begin in January
- The Teen Advisory Board Lock-In is scheduled for January 25th at 6 PM.
- The Director search has been completed
- A new search is underway for a supervising librarian for CK. This person will assist the adult services librarian and handle a variety of administrative projects
- A new youth services person has been chosen, pending the confirmation of the person's acceptance of the job
- Much of the city archives have been moved from the Berwyn Senior Citizens Center to CK. (Board members toured the archive at the end of the meeting.)
- Wassma Mohana's portrait of Caroline Kennedy will be hung near the west entrance along with a plaque from the Friends of the Library group
- The MelCat system is active and working well
- Bids for laptop computers are out
- The Museum Adventure Pass Program is gaining interest among patrons
- Wireless Internet access availability is progressing. An additional point has been found at JFK, freeing one up for CK
- The broadband connection is maxed out. A probe is underway on why the T1 line is so busy, and how to clear and/or possibly add more space
- The library website is ready to go. A pending revamping of the city's main homepage will allow the libraries to offer more to web surfers.
- Security monitoring equipment needs to be upgraded
- The Policy Manual will be discussed at our March meeting
- There have been no new problems with graffiti since a cubicle was recently repainted

- Light ballast performance and replacements remain an issue. (Secretary's note: Ms. Badalow and I witnessed the explosion and smoke of a ballast when it went out after this meeting was adjourned.)
- The air/heating system finds one boiler inoperable but both AC units working

There was also a general discussion about the 2007 Combined Statistical Report. The document showed improvements in all categories (collection size, circulation, etc.), especially when compared to comparable libraries in the metro Detroit area.

Unfinished/New Business:

Chairman Powers asked Mr. McCaffery to consider expanding the Board's role in assisting the libraries with various needs or projects. Board members often have outside connections to the community that can take the burden off of the library staff on certain matters.

Mrs. Kosko asked about the bike rack at JFK. Mr. McCaffery said the city's Tax Increment Finance Authority was to purchase the rack but it has not yet been installed. She also mentioned a window by the book drop at JFK was broken over the holidays. Mr. McCaffery said he was unaware of that situation but would check into it with Mr. Wrona.

Motion by Mrs. Kosko, supported by Mr. Zadikian, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
John Zadikian
Recording Secretary