

Dearborn Heights Library Advisory Board
Minutes of the General Membership Meeting
March 15, 2007

Vice Chairwoman Emmy Peck called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM at the Caroline Kennedy Library.

Present: Eulalia Colon, Vice Chairwoman Emmy Peck, Secretary John Zadikian.

Absent: Sherry Kosko, Chairman Tim Powers (both excused).

Also present: City Council Liaison Janet Badalow, Library Director A. Michael Deller, Teen Advisory Board Member Saif Raba, JFK Supervising Librarian Michael Wrona.

Due to the unavailability of the January 18, 2007, minutes, the board suspended the reading of those minutes until May 17.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of Elaine Shy, who died March 7. Mrs. Shy was a longtime resident and an ardent supporter of the Dearborn Heights libraries.

Communications:

From A. Michael Deller, responding to a complaint by resident Gail Elsey regarding a computer availability issue at CK. Deller explained that possibly this summer the libraries hope to install time management software that warns a user their allotted time on a computer is about to expire. It would also save on the amount of paper patrons use at the printers. Board members were pleased with Deller's response.

From A. Michael Deller, responding to a complaint by resident Jessica Russick regarding her not being able to use the adult computers at JFK. Russick is 12 years old and was attempting to access a restricted website. Michael Wrona explained she and her father are frequent patrons of the library. Deller emphasized the restriction is due to a state law, not a local one, and provided her with a copy of the law and a suggestion on how to change it. Wrona reported that after receiving Deller's response, Russick has not been inquisitive about this or other library policies.

From A. Michael Deller to Art Shy, regarding a donation of books made in memory of Elaine Shy. Badalow expressed an interest in a similar donation.

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Special/Standing Committees:

The only discussion was that when the situation warrants, board members are encouraged to seek volunteers to help with projects.

Report of the Chair:

Vice Chairwoman Peck distributed a newspaper article regarding a library in New Jersey that closes to the public when school lets out as a means to combat rowdiness.

Report of the Library Director:

Deller spoke of the State Library Director's "town hall" meetings at various libraries with directors and patrons. Proposed cuts in state aid could potentially harm other library systems much worse than Dearborn Heights. It is possible The Library Network could be impacted significantly, which, in turn, would affect operations at its affiliates.

Deller estimates by late April there will be two new staff work stations at JFK; more teen and youth work stations at CK and JFK; and improvements to the Friends store at CK.

Exploration of grant monies for enhancements to offerings for visually-impaired continues with the assistance of Julie Beukema and the Mayor.

A general discussion was held regarding the Quality Services Audit Checklist – which includes a conflict of interest policy for board members – and the "Are You Asking the Ultimate Question" article.

Unfinished Business:

Badalow has spoken with the City Clerk about changes to our meeting dates and the advertising of such a change. She will also seek the assistance of the Michigan Municipal League on the matter. At the urging of Vice Chairwoman Peck, all members should check their monthly schedules in time for the May 17 meeting so that further discussion of a possible schedule change can be held at that time.

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Unfinished Business (continued):

Deller indicated the Mayor and Chairman Powers are in contact over the potential involvement of former resident and current New York businessman Tony Viscogliosi with the libraries. Deller explained the possibility of Viscogliosi underwriting a speakers series or artwork depicting the namesakes of the libraries. Vice Chairwoman Peck suggested a Michigan artists contest for murals or statuary; Secretary Zadikian suggested duplicating the City Hall art gallery, or establishing a kiosk-type of interactive system offering a video presentation on the life histories of the namesakes. All ideas were generally well received and will be discussed in the future.

All members are to keep thinking of ways to raise money so that necessary items can be purchased in the future. Teen Advisory Board member Raba said his group is doing the same thing.

The next scheduled general membership meeting will be on Thursday, May 17, 2007, at 7:30 PM in the Caroline Kennedy Library.

Motion by Colon, supported by Zadikian, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56 PM.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

John Zadikian

Recording Secretary