

Irondequoit Public Library Board of Trustees
Monthly Meeting
45 Cooper Rd
October 19, 2011

Trustee Members Present: Stephanie Squicciarini, Mary Ellen Jones, Miriam Ganze, Karyl Mammano, Elaine Cole, David Heffer

Excused: Irena Skrobach

Others Present: Terry Buford, Director; Ann Ryan, Friends Board President

Meeting Called to order at 7:05

Approval of Agenda: moved, seconded, approved.

Public Forum: None

Approval of Board Minutes: moved, seconded, approved, Heffer abstained.

Vouchers: moved, seconded, approved.

Director's Report:

Irondequoit Public Library
DIRECTOR'S REPORT
Wednesday, October 19, 2011

1. Library System News

- I attended the October 17th meeting of the MCLS Board along with trustees Squicciarini, Jones, Cole and our town board liaison John Perticone. The MCLS board had decided that they would “help” us get a new library by denying our New York State Library Construction Grant. They felt that allocating grant money for patching up or performing stopgap type maintenance was slowing progress toward a new library. We were there to appeal that decision. Given the financial conditions in Irondequoit town government it seemed foolish to assume any strategy would result in a new building anytime soon so we were hoping to obtain financial grants to keep the current buildings in good working order and protect the health and safety of both workers and customers. As expected they rejected our appeal on the library construction grant. The MCLS trustees made it clear that they feel we have taken too long to build a new library and that denying us grant money would help us. Nobody on the MCLS board explained exactly how they thought that would work. Some said that approving grant money to repair and maintain the existing inadequate buildings would only make it less likely that

we would ever build a new library. Among the suggestions from the MCLS board for moving the new building process forward were, close a branch, make some other “drop a bomb” type move in regard to library services to shake up people in Irondequoit, use social networking to build support. We are exploring our options.

- The RPL Foundation and the Friends of the RPL have officially merged.

2. Town News

- The next event on tap for the 2012 budget process is the public hearing on the budget on Thursday, November 10 at 7 PM.

3. IPL News / Facilities report

- We are in discussions with two community organizations for possible partnering and cooperation arrangements.
- We are experiencing more juvenile delinquency problems at McGraw. Staff report that when they arrive for work first thing in the morning they often encounter teenagers loitering by the back door smoking cigarettes and sometimes smoking pot. Obviously it is very distressing for employees to encounter people in that isolated rear entrance area. I have discussed the situation with Chief Boyan of the IPD and he has promised increased attention to the situation.
- A Sister cities delegation is visiting the area including McGraw Branch on Thursday, October 20th.
- We had the brush and tree limbs that overhang and screen the rear entrance area of the McGraw Branch cut back by Sodbusters a local landscaping company.
- We have received a check for Library State Aid money \$14,000.
- We are looking at an estimated \$1,700 repair to the child safety systems on the McGraw branch elevator.

4. IPL Personnel Report

- Our 2 Librarian I hires from last year, Amy Henderson and Virginia Payne recently celebrated their one year anniversaries with us. After working for one year they are no longer in their civil service probationary period and are permanent IPL employees. They have both done excellent work for us.

5. Financial/Statistical Report Highlights

- With approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ of the year complete we are in a very good financial position. In revenue we are now on target with library charges and overall need only collect another \$34,000 to meet our targets. With the \$14,000 state aid check in hand we really only need to collect \$20K to meet our targets. Projected revenue from library charges alone for the remainder of the year is \$21,000.
- On the expense side we are in good shape as well. Barring any major catastrophes we may eke out a small surplus after the materials, associated supplies, cost share, utilities and insurance premiums are paid.
- Vouchers of note are: #320, Monroe Piping, for the quarterly maintenance contract; #321, Monroe Piping, for repairs to the Evans AC unit; #324, Sodbusters, for trimming of brush and trees at the rear of the McGraw property.

Terry Buford

President's Report: The meeting with the MCLS Board to appeal the rejection of our construction grant application was a disappointment.

Committee Reports:

Budget: No changes to the budget have been requested since our amended budget was submitted.

Communications: None

Contract negotiations: negotiations will begin November 2nd.

Director Evaluation: Forms are being distributed to all participants and are due back by November 14. They will be tabulated and we hope to have results ofr the next meeting.

Friends Liaison Report: Miriam Ganze commented on the Friends Dessert Reception & Annual Meeting held on September 27th. The Friends did a beautiful job and it was a lovely evening.

Ann Ryan reported that the Friends had made \$800.66 from their book table at the Farmer's Market and the Friends would be participating in the community garage sale on October 27th.

Foundation Report: It was noted that the Central Library had combined the functions of their Friends and their Foundation. The question was raised as to whether or not we should do the same thing. David Heffer will discuss the possibility with the Foundation members and approach the Friends.

MCLS Liaison Report: It was noted that MCLS denied the grant request for repaving the parking lots because they do not want the IPL to put any more money into the

existing buildings. Their opinion is that maintaining existing buildings impedes progress toward obtaining a new building. It was strongly suggested that this information needs to be shared with the public. Ganze and Cole will write an article for the Irondequoit Post and/or contact Linda Quinlan.

Town Board Liaison Report: None

Old Business:

IPL Trustee Handbook - tabled.

Planning - Due to dissatisfaction with the ZOGBY proposal for a poll of residents, Karyl Mammano will make enquiries at SJFC about a marketing survey for the IPL. The Board discussed updating the estimates for the costs of performing the necessary upgrades and improvements needed to stay in our existing buildings. These upgrade costs were originally identified by the Thomas Group report in 2004. It was moved that we approach the IPL Foundation to pay for the costs of this updated report. Moved, seconded, approved.

New Business:

Submitting Board Minutes - The Board discussed the entire process of the production of the Board meeting minutes especially when a note taker is acting for the official secretary. It was decided that when the minutes are taken by someone other than the Board Secretary they should be submitted “for” the Secretary.

2012 holidays and Closings - Moved, seconded, approved. Due to the way the official holidays fall there will be no need for the IPL to be closed for 4 consecutive days in 2012. This has been a problem in past years.

Construction Grant Rejection - The MCLS Board rejected the IPL grant application because they want us to pursue a new library strategy that includes trying to generate interest in a new building by allowing the existing sites to deteriorate. The Board agreed that this was not a reasonable approach as it would be unfair to staff and residents. Strategies should be decided by the IPL Board. A lengthy discussion ensued about next steps.

Board President’s remarks: None.

Adjourned: 9:30 PM.

Respectfully,

Eileen Hayes-Power

For Board Secretary Irena Skrobach