

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Tuesday, November 10, 2009 – 7:30 P.M.**

A special meeting of the Great Neck Library Board of Trustees was held on Tuesday, November 10, 2009, in the Parkville School Auditorium, 10 Campbell Street, New Hyde Park, NY 11040 [Agenda attached]

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Martin Sokol – President
Andrew Greene – Vice President
Janet Eshaghoff – Secretary
Marietta DiCamillo – Treasurer
Anna Kaplan – Assistant Treasurer
Varda Solomon – Assistant Treasurer
Josie Pizer

Also present:

Jane B. Marino – Director
Laura Weir – Assistant Director
Neil Zitofsky – Business Manager
Kevin Seaman – Legal Counsel

Dan Hueberger & Ernesto Vela – DattnerArchitects
Frank Messano – Park East Construction
Kim Gennaro – Environmental Consultant, VHB
Harold Lutz – Traffic Engineer, VHB

The attendance sheet, signed by members of the public who attended the meeting, is attached.

This is the last in a series of three special Board meetings scheduled to get public input on the Main Building renovation/expansion project.

President Sokol called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and thanked everyone for coming. He explained that this meeting will be run a little differently from the others. After the architect's presentation, the floor will be open to the public, after which the Trustees can have their discussions. Cards were provided for those wishing to speak to write their questions. These will be collected and questions answered by the person best able to answer it. He then introduced Dan Hueberger and Ernesto Vela, Frank Messano, and Noah Nadelson.

Mr. Heuberger in introducing himself said he has been working with the Board since Spring 2009 along with his colleagues from Park East Construction. The architect is responsible for the design and planning aspect of this proposal, while the construction manager is responsible for issues of constructability and budget. Our task was to respond to a request for proposal issued by the library which outlines the programmatic requirements for the expansion and renovation of the Main Library. The project shown tonight is just for that library.

He began his powerpoint presentation by showing an aerial photo of the site of the library as it currently exists.

Before getting started with the design of the building itself, an analysis of the site – the views, noise and sunlight – was done. We would like for this building to use as much sunlight as possible both as a way of lowering the electric bill but also natural life is major asset to this building and at the same time respecting the views of the neighbors adjacent to the library.

The diagram shows where you cannot build on the site. Udall's Pond is a wetland. The DEC has drawn a line, which is called the DEC Non Jurisdiction Line. If you were to go beyond that line then you would be subjected to various environmental reviews from the State as well as expenses. The shape of the addition comes from the Non-Jurisdiction line on one side and the concrete terrace. There was a previous scheme by another architect that proposed the addition extended over the parking lot on stilts. He tries to make building compact as possible and making the smallest possible building to fit the program requirements given them by the Board.

The parking lot is beautiful with mature trees and he would like to keep as much of the existing landscape as possible. the expanded building will require more parking than is currently available on site. Since the building was built in 1970, parking requirements have changed. Even if the building were built today without changing anything, it would require more parking than is currently on site. So they are presented with a challenging assignment to find parking. He reviewed the proposals for parking. (1) Keep the parking exactly as it is today and leave the trees same as they are. The parking requirement according to code today is 160 spots and there are only about 98 on site. So the additional parking will be on street parking or in Saddle Rock. The Board of Trustees has reached out to the Water Pollution Control District and the Mayor of Saddle and there are ongoing discussions on how to solve the parking issue. To fit more spots on the site would require the cutting down of trees. One of the features of the plan he was reviewing [Plan B] is making the parking lot safer. One danger of the existing lot is the garbage truck after picking up the garbage, backs up for a distance, makes a 180-degree turn and a broken U-turn to exit. To avoid this there will be a service made at the upper level, hidden from view, that the garbage truck can makes a quick loop around the traffic circle and get out and it is much safer. (2) This is the most aggressive scheme which rearranges about two-thirds of the existing stalls on the site and increases the number of trees that would be cut down. The architect and the Board are reluctant to do that and they

preferred more off site parking than cutting down all those trees (3) One of the parking possibilities, which is not a sure thing at this time, is long-term lease parking on the Water Pollution Control District site.

The building is 40 years old and lot of the mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems have reached almost the end of their useful life and are not very efficient. So the expansion of the building gives an opportunity to do a total renovation of the inside of the existing building. Some of the things in their program guidelines which have been the subject of many feasibility studies going back almost 10 years include more meeting rooms, more flexible meeting spaces, different size meeting rooms, larger AV department, re-planning the Children's department to make material more accessible to kids, dedicated teen area, improvement of collection, seating area, and more efficient staff areas. The future cannot be predicted but with careful planning, building can be made more flexible for the changing needs of the library over time. Making the building handicapped accessible and ADA compliant and basic repairs to the exterior of the building – the roof, asbestos removal, single paned windows which are poorly insulated – all of these things need to be upgraded. The exterior of the building is in quite decent shape; it is a good quality building but over time the elements take their toll and some maintenance is expected. The concept study, 100 pages long, was provided to the Board in August and it includes architectural, mechanical engineering and structural explanations. This can be seen on the on the library's website.

Mr. Heuberger then showed the space program diagram showing the difference between the existing program and the new expanded program. Some areas like Technical Services, are now smaller while the AV Department is much larger.

In terms of the option considered, when the Board gave him the program, they were working backwards from the earlier scheme which was the existing building plus an additional 24,000 sq ft. He has developed three options: Option A (47,000 sq ft) which keeps the building the way it is today but totally gutting the interior and renovate with no addition of new space. More efficiency may be achieved by moving the furniture and partitions around. But the size of the existing building is not sufficient to house the expanded program. Option B (60,000 sq ft) is the full addition which adds 13,000 sq ft to the existing building. Option C (57,000 sq ft) is in between options A and B and removes some areas from the scheme including the mezzanine.

The architect then showed the floor plan of the existing building. One of the salient features of this floor in the building is the mezzanine level which divides the library in two. The bookshelves below support the mezzanine. The mezzanine is too low for air and light or for an office. The shelves cannot be removed as they are holding up the entire mezzanine and has greatly inhibited the flexibility in future plans and this they want to modify.

The showed a diagram of the building from the parking lot side with the new addition. Stairs moved out a little, there is a ramp for the handicapped accessibility. The existing stairs to lower level will be rebuilt and located in same spot.

He walked the audience through the first floor of the proposed Plan B with the layout of the different departments. On the that level will be the circulation desk, the computers, circulating collection with seating scattered along the edge, the AV department which will be doubled in size with its own checkout and the reference area which will remain where it currently is. All the enclosed spaces which is a combination of staff offices and public meeting rooms and reading rooms are located to the west side of the building so that the floor plan is as open as possible to accommodate changing needs over time. From the main level the children's department which will be located on the lower level can be seen.

Cost Estimates

An independent cost estimator was hired by the architectural firm to run the numbers on all the different plans. The library, separate from the architect, had Park East develop their own numbers based on the same documents and the same plans. The numbers were delivered to the Library and they were between 5% of each other. The architect and the construction manager got together and reconciled those numbers in order to have single number to present to the public. – some numbers went up while some went down. This is also on the library's website in great detail.

He explained how an architectural budget works. There are three things that go into the total project cost: (1) hard costs which are bricks and mortar – material and labor that go into making the building; (2) soft costs are fees for the architect, engineers, cost for moving, book storage, financing fees etc. (3) There are some alternates which are added features not necessarily required to build the building but might be desirable.

The presentation was abbreviated as some of the residents wanted to express themselves.

Public Comments:

Robert Feingold: Encouraged Board to continue supporting Levels. He has two teenagers attending and he loves Levels and Ethan does a great job.

Eileen Muhlbauer: Cannot afford \$30,000 million in these economic times. People are on fixed incomes. Not saying cannot renovate the building but why bigger when our own little library here never grows? Parkville that library has been a disgrace for years? You have done something with it, thank you very much. But let's continue Why everything up in Great Neck. She will get everybody on her block to vote down the referendum. She thanked the architect for the beautiful presentation but the section for the administration on his diagram is bigger than all of Parkville put together.

Sy Berman: if looking for some magnificent structure, we don't need that. A practical place is what we need. The library is sufficient enough. With all these wonderful designs, is it necessary, except for beauty? We are not looking for beauty we are looking for costs.

Stu Hochron: How much money spent by the various library Boards since 1996 for plans, drawings, architects etc for the renovation/expansion project for the library? In addition to \$15 million or \$30 million for the renovated library building, how much will be budgeted to renovate and update the three branches and how much will this add to proposed property tax increase? Will Station Branch be moved or closed? The Business Manager responded that from 1999 to October 31, 2009, \$547,881 have been spent and this includes, architectural fees, feasibility studies, legal fees, zoning counsel and topographical surveys. He continued that we do not include renovation in the operating budget but it comes from the restricted fund held by the library specifically for the branches. Approximately \$200,000 is in that fund which is spent as needed. In 1999 \$520,000 was spent on renovating Parkville Branch, \$200,000 on Lakeville and Station was done about 1995/96 so he did not have that number. Trustee Greene said there are no proposed tax increase and that Station Branch is not closing. Trustee Eshaghoff said we are negotiating with the landlord to stay in the shopping center with the possibility of either moving to a larger space within the center or adding more space to where we are. Trustee Sokol reiterated that the intent is for the Station Branch to remain in the Plaza.

Jack Binder: In order for the plan to go forward, you need the cooperation of Saddle Rock and the Town of North Hempstead and I am sure you have had discussions with them. Has this swayed you in choosing Plan A, B or C? Trustee Greene replied yes. At least five variances have to be obtained from the Town of North Hempstead in order to proceed with either Plan B or C and some variances are needed if Plan A was the preferred plan. There were meetings with Mr. Kaiman and members of his administration, and with Mayor Samansky regarding parking on Bayview Avenue. We have listened to what they had to say, which is critical, as it can control whether or not we get the necessary variances and parking. All decisions we have made we have taken into account their input and pointed questions and their requirements.

Margery Binder was on the Board of Trustees when her children were in elementary school at Parkville and she loves the Parkville Branch. She uses all the branches as well as Main. She appeal to the community to think of the Great Neck Library as a global community. She bought her house in 1970 and the greatest source of pride was right after she went to contract, there was an Article in the Times about the opening of the Main Library. She recalls several times when Parkville was threatened. We have to think about now is that our branches are in rented quarters and Main is still Main and that is the concept of Main. Unless the State Education has changed, the lease at Parkville is limited by the fact that it is school property and the school has the right to claim it back if it wants within a certain period of time. The other branches are in shopping centers where you are at the mercy of landlords. Main is ours. Can't argue where the site. It was chosen and the entire peninsula all the way down almost to Hillside Avenue is our district. She is hoping that the Board and the community pull themselves together.

Roya Xzang: He is a manager of library services of a big company. In the past 10 years the Library moved four times from 2,000 to 200 sq ft. although the company expanded from three floors to six floors. The trend is getting smaller. Purchase services that would benefit all the people in Great Neck. In the past six to seven years he's been to Main only twice and could not find the material he was looking for and his kids have never been there. He represents at least eight families in the area who could not make the meeting. He does not know how many trustees are for the plan but if they are all for it, he will not be voting for them next year. The economy is bad for this plan

Edward Ortutay: lived with parents so he does not pay taxes but he uses the library services often. No problem with the bond issue but he wanted to know why that money cannot be used to expand readership, expand the collection and build on the infrastructure of the rest of the library system. To go to Main takes two buses. You mention 40% of the circulation is in the audio-visual department at the Main. How much of that is going to each of the branches? The Director replied that many of the things he mentioned are part of the reasons for the renovation. She can only tell how many items are circulated at each location. We serve all of the branches and we do certainly expand readership and programs and continue to develop collections at all of our locations. We expand programs in the Parkville Branch most recently, and also in Lakeville. This is something we do on an ongoing basis. She is talking to the School for additional space at Parkville and talking to landlord for better or additional space at Station.

Mike Currie: Has the Town defined the maximum allowable expansion so you will know how big a footprint you can use? There was a rejection based on too big usage of the property and insufficient parking. Did they define what was too big and what was too little in that rejection so you have a ground work to move forward? Trustee Greene replied that the process does not allow for a commitment on a proposed building before a the submission of a plan, but it is a 'political process' of feeling out and getting the Town's input on what is acceptable and what is not. Dan also stated that it was unclear how far the previous proposal got in terms of the plan approval process but they got comments back that were negative based on parking. In order to get constructive response from the Town Planning Board, a plan must be submitted. We know we need a parking variance and a site coverage variance. Regardless of the scheme chosen, these variances are inevitable. Our strategy is to design an addition that was no bigger than it needs to be in terms of the program. As for the parking, he knows what is needed to resolve the zoning issues which he is trying to accommodate to the best of his ability. There is no guarantee that this project will get site plan approval at this stage, but we have designed a building that has the best possible chance of meeting the spirit of what the Town will approve. For example, they may need some modification to the plan. Mr. Currie further said that at this point the engineer should have had a factual answer from the Town. Dan responded that he did not talk at length about the project and some of these technical issues. For example, in addition to parking, there is a concern with storm water run-off because there is more site coverage than is allowed by law. We have a storm water management plan, which is at the concept level, and the engineering details have not yet

been worked out, the final details and objective are real and are sufficient to handle run off capacity on the site.

Carol Bernstein: She sat on the Board of Zoning and Appeals (BZA) in Lake Success for over 20 years. You cannot get advance notice of what will be approved. When you decide what you want and it has been denied because of non compliance with zoning restrictions of the village, then you go before the BZA, which is an independent body not run by mayor or Mr. Kaiman and a decision is determined based on the application.

Harold Knapp: Parkville Branch is leased from the Board of Education and is there an option to buy or renew? How long is the lease and how many times renewed? The Business Manager replied that it is a 10-year renewable lease. Mr. Knapp said his children went to Parkville Branch and he wanted to know how old the Parkville building is. Assistant Director Weir after saying that Parkville was renovated 10 years ago, Mr. Knapp said that compared to the Main Library which is a palace, the Parkville Branch is an 'out house'.

Mike Zarin in stating his qualifications in the area of bonds said he served on the Great Neck School Board and the rating went from A to AA., which meant a great amount of savings for the bond issue. He also worked with the Port Authority, among others, and he saved millions of dollars in bonds. There is no better time than now to issue bonds. Why is this the time to do it? The plans for this program, which are smaller than the previous scheme, will cost more because of the time lapse. So every year waited, it will cost more than before. We are passing through a difficult time but we have been through good times and bad times in these past 10 years. Why stacks are still holding up the mezzanine is people compromised. A few more bucks and we have something much better to work with now. It is expensive and I understand but when the people in the Great Neck District are in the process paying back, it will look cheap. Unfortunately, we are heading for a big inflation. We will be paying back this money in cheap dollars and it will be the best investment and you will be proud.

Anthony Cacioppa: Agrees with many sides of the issue. Have no problem with spending the \$30 million. Enough concern is not given to the branches and the proposal is not dealing with technology for the present and the future. Books are going to be digitally distributed. Renovate and elevate the other branches and have a shuttle bus service to run between Main and the branches. These considerations have not been thought of. This community is hurting for other things. The bond is not a well thought out plan; it is one sided. Let's get a beautiful building! Let's not think of the technology that is here. Director Marino said we do offer digital download of books, e-books and audio books are available to everyone in our system through website. Everything is being considered.

Jerry Berkson: In this community here, there are more children of elementary age than in any other area of the Great Neck school district and therefore money needs to be reallocated. This area has more children who walk to the library than in any other area in the district. So you need to look at that kind of arithmetic in the consideration of this.

Dana Epifan: She likens the proposed scheme to a dream kitchen. I would like to have reasonable option and the renovation is so much more reasonable than an expansion. The expansion is beautiful but does not seem reasonable for what we can do. Need to support the entire community and not just this one building. She knows the main building is falling apart and needs true renovation but it just does not seem fair.

Conrad Biel: 98 parking spaces currently on site but the expansion will now require 160 spaces. Your plan to expand puts the overflow on the street. I drive up to library and nowhere to park. You are going to expand this building and make it worse! He suggested a two-level underground parking. Mr. Heuberger responded that underground parking costs about \$20-30,000 a space and moreover, the site of the building is water. At grade parking is only \$3,000 per space. Discussions regarding off site parking have been taking place with the Village of Saddle Rock. Mr. Biel commenting on the point that the kids cannot reach the books on the shelves because they are too high felt that is what parents and librarians are for. Why not expand upwards instead of outwards? Anybody who knows how libraries are built knows that the stacks are made out of steel to support all that weight. Dan replied that he was incorrect. The reason the mezzanine is low has nothing to do with the weight of the stacks. As far as adding another floor, there are too many resistances against it. It would require a zoning variance because it would be higher than what is permitted on the site. And secondly, an additional floor would mean another floor to supervise. Most of the expansion is purely for show. Most of the people would have support this if it were practical but it is not.

Naomi Feldheim: She has been to many of the meetings where plans were presented and discussed by the Board. She thanked Dan and the Board of Trustees for all their efforts that went into these plans. All the people she knows in Great Neck for the past 50 years that she has lived here have come for the schools, the library and the parks. We are one community that supports three branches and she does not know of another community that does. So we have options. The option for a library that is in good condition and that is for the future is for the benefit of all us. The value of our homes is increased with the kind of school and library system we have in Great Neck.

Stan Romaine: Congratulated the Board of Trustees. Station Branch will not be closed for those who are concerned. Main is Important to future of our community and the Board should give every consideration to building it as far as it can go. We know what the economy is but we have to take our children's future in mind and our own.

Courtney Davey: Went to Parkville Elementary School and living here in New Hyde Park. She loves Parkville Branch which gave her little girl a foundation to start to read and she feels that although education is the most important thing you can give to your kids, it should be shared with all four renovated buildings - just in one area and not the other is wrong. Although she grew up in library and it was a great place to go to as a child to get information, it is not the same as today and what the kids have at their fingertips. Putting that much money into one place and not all does not seem right.

Margery Chodosch: Hoping the entire community will join together to approve what the library needs. Don't wait until it falls down around us. Worked at the library for more than 30 years, and during that time, there were two renovations at Station Branch, and renovations at both Lakeville and Parkville. But these are branches and we have a main library. I consider the library my home. We hear complaints from the public because the library is too noisy. We don't have study rooms for group use. There are complaints that young children have to traipse through the library as there is no area in the children's room for programming. We give one-on-one classes in the middle of the reference room because we do not have a computer lab. This plan takes nothing away from Parkville or any of the other branches but it is for all of us to use, for us, our children and our grand children. And I hope we all get together behind it.

Fran Berger: Demographically, New Hyde Park area has more senior citizens. They will not have access to Main library and a lot don't drive anymore. This area needs more services.

Carol Karpus: We need a shuttle bus. I am a Parkville resident but I was at the Station Branch and did not realize how small it is. Parkville is at least double in size. There were so many people there, 10 o'clock in the morning, sitting at three or four computers which was worse than the subway. I don't know about Lakeville Branch. But I know Parkville is highly utilized. We have a lot of new families here with grandparents helping out and they don't know where Main is. You have to get that bus back into your service. Many people have never been at Main and if you have to renovate it, you have to have a feeling for the place. I know you had a shuttle bus many years ago, it probably was not utilized much but the population has changed. Please consider quickly!

Barbara Zeller: Her kids have been through the Great Neck South schools. They had a choice of choosing picking north or south. I loved it that they picked south as it provided a broader scope of people. The reality after 50 years of going to library meetings and listening to arguments, this Board is not there when this library was built. This was done many, many years ago. If there was land available, rebuilding the library in a different place would have been an option that many of the Boards would have had. The reality is this building sits in the wrong place but it is still the mother, it is still the place that feeds the branches which are rentals. This one is ours. It can be improved. There has to be a reason why Great Neck residents are at Manhasset Library. It is clean, new, its modern, its accessible. One evening after leaving a Board meeting I almost got killed by a piece of roof that came down. Another day in the middle of the summer, there was no air condition. This is not the way this town should live. We have pride in our community. It's a wonderful community. It's made our living here the best, yet other areas have nicer libraries. Let's pull together on this. It's easy to get a bus but more important to put our money in the institution that has given us the best. We now have a building that is falling down. It is not a frivolous plan; it was designed by some of the best architects who are aware of conservation and going green. She hopes the war between north and south ends.

Lillian Hoffman: Going to library meetings for years and people stymied everything going on. So many years have passed and costs have gone up. The competition between Main and branches is ridiculous. It's our library. It's your library; it's not their library! The main building is in bad state, it needs a ton of money to fix it. This is time to do something about it. I don't agree with renovation but we have a modest plan. The bond issue has to do with the cost of your home and those people who have very expensive homes will be paying more than those who have modest homes. Hard times to ask to spend more money but it needs to be done now. If a bus will make a big difference, eventually a bus should be provided.

Muriel Weinstein: If your house is valued at \$1 million, it would cost you \$85 to \$95 a year. Where can you go to get \$95 a year for educational tools and educational programs that this library offers? Ticket to one Broadway show for two hours is \$100. Great Neck has achieved tremendous recognition because of its leaders who had visions which they turned into reality. I bet there was an opposing group when this library was started and if they had listened to that opposing group we would not have had this library today. This is not spending money! It is investing money for your children and grandchildren, and for your financial worth in your home.

Amy Levinson thanked the Trustees. This is a very difficult issue for the whole community to deal with. You have got further than any other Board. Everybody is on this Board is new and working hard. Nobody is paid but they do this as a gift to the community and we should appreciate it.

Linda Shore spoke on behalf of Parkville mothers who take the children to the Parkville Branch and who utilize every aspect of it from storytime to pajama night and crafts. People at the branch are wonderful. For the past four years every year the central air condition leaks in the children's section. They put a bucket down and kids stick their fingers in it. If the kids' shelves are made lower at the main library, the kids would take books from shelves and cause more work for staff to clean up.

Bianca Malhotra: 16 years old who attends Great Neck South High and represents the teenage community in New Hyde Park. There is no way of getting to Levels as much as her friends do; only a select few go to Levels. And she feels left out because she is not able to go there. Her parents come home 8 or 9 o'clock and it is not possible for her because she does not drive and will soon be going to college, and probably will never go to that library. Most, if not all, of the programs for teens of her age are not available at Parkville. All the Levels program takes place at the Main and not one at Parkville. There are five or six computers at Parkville with three or four for the children and there is no private study area and the library is always crowded. Deserves same amenities that her friends in Great Neck have access to. The Director will discuss with Ethan the possibility of branching out Levels programs from the Main.

Bob Walden: Library was built in 1970 – why so obsolete? Most people are for renovation but not expansion. Turn it into a movie house – do we really want that. The

collections are diminishing not expanding. Things are in electronic format and we do not need more space. I think you should renovate it and give more attention to branches and that seems to be the consensus of what is being said here. Have you thought about moving the main library to the center of town where everybody would use it more and that seems to be the problem? If the building can be fixed, it should be fixed and then you will have a lot of money for everybody and you will make everybody happy. Assistant Library Director Weir said in the previous go round in 2004-05 the Board looked into other options. There was the Waldbaum's land. Also, the land on which the main library is located is not worth much money to sell and buy somewhere else.

Doris Rymer: Lived in New Hyde Park for 41 years. I shudder to think of \$33 million to repair the library. Cannot drive because of illness and will never be able to go to Main unless the bus is put back into service and make it handicap accessible. Many New Hyde Park residents need that service now more than ever. I do not know if you have read that article that says new Hyde Park is now considered a natural place for elderly residents. Services should be considered Especially for New Hyde Park.

Jenny Rymer: Former Parkville student and one of the first people to go to Levels and very active in plays there. Great Neck is very near and dear to her. Totally understand why we in the divided part of the Great Neck system here in New Hyde Park felt somewhat like the stepchild because we are further away and we are looked at as the people from the other side. We are included if your parents can get you there or if you can drive its great. There was a library [Arrandale] before the Main and it was one of the first libraries we had. So when the library on Bayview Avenue was built, everybody was aggravated because it was far away. There were no buses to Levels then. \$95 not easy out of pocket! It's more than a tank of gas in my car. We need to renovate the Library and I don't think anybody here does not think that the library should not be renovated. She referred to the mother who earlier spoke about the leaking air condition. She said it is a health hazard. She works at the airport and if they have standing water OSHA would have been called in. the Library could get in trouble because it is a health hazard. You need to renovate the Main and all three branches.

Frank Phillips: 59 year resident, one of the first PTA presidents and has served on advisory committees to school boards and various other positions on the school board. He came to Great Neck because of the schools. He came to New Hyde Park because he knew those in Great Neck with the high income would produce monies for our schools so our kids would have a great education. Great Neck is the only school district in New York State with a main library and three branches. If not for Great Neck we would not have a library here. I have a home Upstate New York. The value of the property is about one-third of that of Great Neck. They have just built a beautiful library there. Think we have been given a false picture of who we are, why we are here, and what are we gaining from Great Neck. Whenever he or his wife needs a book he gets it from the Main. It is wonderful.

Some people in this community are making us feel that we are being mistreated and we are second class citizens – no, we are not. If we were living on the other side of Hillside Avenue, our homes would be worth \$200,000 or less than they are now and this is because we have Great Neck schools, the Great Neck Library and this library down here.

Trustees' Comments

Trustee Sokol: Pleasure listening to everyone and that although you acted with interest and passion you always acted civil. He thanked them on behalf of the trustees. Tomorrow is Veterans' day and because of these veterans in the U.S., we have free libraries. Don't forget you the residents will ultimately decide, and not the trustees, what is happening to the library. Our job as elected trustees is to come to a consensus as to the best plan to put before the public. It is you, the public, who will vote on a referendum to accept or reject what will be presented. As president, he is bringing it to the point where his successor will finalize the referendum.

Trustee DiCamillo: Thanked everyone for coming.

Trustee Pizer said she listened carefully and there were a number of good suggestions. The bond issue will not take away from the branches. They are two separate budgets, the bond issue is for the building alone, and it will not take any money from renovating the branches. The trustees heard that \$30 million for expansion/renovation sounds like a lot and everyone on the Board has been talking about cost reduction and cost containment. It's not a done deal. We are not spending \$30 million. The shuttle bus is a very good suggestion and will be taken up with the Finance Committee. And finally, there should be expansion of programs at the Branches. Much of this has to do with space accommodation but it is a very good suggestion which will be considered. She thanked everyone for being here and for all the information they have provided.

Trustee Solomon: funding the shuttle bus will be a part of the operating budget voted on every year but is a separate budget from the referendum. Any expanded programs will come out of the operating budget. The Station Branch lease also comes from the operating budget

Trustee Eshaghoff: Renovation of the building is close to \$20 million and that is not very far off from the cost of an expansion. To fix the retaining wall is half of a million dollars. The majority of the budget is dedicated toward renovation and not expansion. As chair of Branch Committee, we have an opportunity to save money at the current Station Branch and to use that money towards the shuttle bus or to expand the Station Branch by going upstairs. The bond issue will cost you \$5 to \$10 a month and that is for the \$30 million plan. I think most of us can manage \$5 a month. Look what you get out of it – a fantastic building. It's one subway sandwich less per month. Think long term! And you should know we all are trying to save your money here.

Trustee Pizer: Long Term Planning Committee is looking for people to volunteer – those with kids in school we would like you to be on that committee. Please see me. We need you.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting will be November 24th in the Parkville School auditorium.
The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Eshaghoff
Secretary of the Board of Trustees