

GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, December 14, 1999
8:00 p.m.

A Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library was held on Tuesday, **December 14, 1999**, at the Main Building, Multi-Purpose Room, 159 Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, NY 11023. (Agenda attached.)

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Mischa Schwartz, President
Elayne Bernstein, Vice President
Marietta DiCamillo, Secretary
Catherine Moore, Treasurer
Joyce Klein
Bette Weidman

Absent with prior notice: Steve Glaser, Assistant Treasurer

Also present: Christine Salita, Library Director
Neil Zitofsky, Business Manager

CALL TO ORDER

President Mischa Schwartz called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m., and welcomed those in attendance. He briefly reviewed a letter received from Lisa Paulo, Head of Children's Services, thanking the Board of Trustees, (especially Assistant Treasurer Steven Glaser) and Director Salita for the renovation of Main's Children's Room.

MINUTES

Upon a motion by Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Joyce Klein, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library approve the minutes of the Meetings of October 14, 1999, October 26, 1999, and November 16, 1999, as presented.

President Schwartz noted a typographical error on page 7 of the October 26th Minutes.

VOTE: Yes - 6 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)
Motion Carried Unanimously

CORRESPONDENCE

Ruth Kogel to the Board of Trustees dated October 25, 1999 and received November 18, 1999.

Ruth Kogel was not present at the time this was addressed, therefore the Board moved on.

TREASURER'S REPORT

During the month of November 1999, revenue received was \$68,178.89. Total expenses were \$537,006.02.

At the close of business, November 30, 1999, total operating fund holdings were \$1,337,634.56 which were on deposit at HSBC (formerly Marine Midland Bank) and The Bank of New York, in U.S. Treasury Bills, and in Petty Cash funds at Main and the Branches. The sum includes \$33,664.08 in reserves designated for renovations to the Parkville and Lakeville branches.

Additionally, the balance of the Main Building and Special Services fund was \$1,066,555.50; the Automated Library fund was \$119,241.84; the Restricted Gift fund was \$11,340.45; the Branch and Special Services fund was \$17,566.54. These funds totaled \$1,214,704.33 on November 30, 1999.

Upon motion by Catherine Moore, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library, accept the December 14, 1999, Treasurer's Report with the Personnel Changes of November 17 through December 14, 1999.

VOTE: Yes - 6 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)
Motion Carried Unanimously

Upon motion by Catherine Moore, seconded by Joyce Klein, and after discussion it was

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library authorize the Treasurer to pay the

persons named in the Check Register presented at the December 1999 Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees, dated November 11, 1999, through December 8, 1999, Paid-Checks numbered 1028 and 18404 through 18498, and To-Be-Paid Checks numbered 18499 through 18626, the sums set against their respective names, for a total amount of two hundred seventy-five thousand four hundred seventy-seven dollars and eighty-three cents (\$275,477.83).

Secretary DiCamillo followed up the December 13, 1999 Finance Committee Meeting, wherein it was agreed upon that "in Budget" Transfer recommendations would be made at the next Regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, to be held in January.

Vice President Bernstein questioned a negative entry on page one of the Check Register. The Business Manager responded.

VOTE: Yes - 6 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)
Motion Carried Unanimously

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (Attached heretofore)

Public Comment:

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Manny Kline asked ~~about~~ if Library personnel were able to purchase enough materials dealing with sibling rivalry, child development, reading readiness in accordance with the Weinig Foundation grant.

Ralene Adler asked for a definition of a "senior" citizen as it pertains to classes to be held at the Library.

Station Branch Advisory Committee

After thanking community members of the Station Branch Advisory Committee, the Board Branch Committee, and Branch Librarian Joan Linden for all their efforts during the past eighteen months, Director Salita presented the Station Branch Advisory Committee Report. (Copy attached.)

Janice Josephson, Co-Chair of the Station Advisory Committee introduced members of the Committee who were present. She stressed that the Committee included a mix of local users that included seniors, working people, singles, commuters and families with children. She thanked Director Salita for her presentation and

highlighted salient points made therein. She concluded by thanking the Board for its involvement, chair of the Branch Committee Elayne Bernstein, and Trustees Catherine Moore, Marietta DiCamillo and Bette Weidman. She also thanked Joe Latini and gave special thanks to the Station Branch Librarian, Joan Linden.

Upon motion by Elayne Bernstein, seconded by Marietta DiCamillo, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library accept the report of the Station Branch Advisory Committee and authorize the Director to contact architect Todd Harvey regarding the possibility of implementing the design contained in the report or developing a new design which would yield comparable results. The Director is to present to the Board an estimate of Mr. Harvey's fee for this service at a future meeting at which time the Board shall vote on his engagement for this project.

VOTE: Yes - 6 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)

Motion Carried Unanimously

Main Library 'Ad Hoc' Committee

Director Salita reported on the site visit to the Northport Public Library and East Northport Branch in November by members of the "Ad Hoc" Committee. President Schwartz added that he was impressed with the reading rooms because they reminded him of the New York Public Library.

Public Comment:

Ralene Adler asked about the cost of construction.

OLD BUSINESS

Engagement of Auditor

Upon motion by Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Catherine Moore, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library authorize the execution of a letter

of engagement with Graber and Co., Certified Public Accountants, for the performance of a certified audit of the Library's financial statements, for the year ended December 31, 1999, at a cost not to exceed \$13,500 to be charged to the "Audit/Accounting Fees" budget line.

VOTE: Yes - 6 (Bernstein, DiCamillo, Klein, Moore, Schwartz, Weidman)
Motion Carried Unanimously

Bylaws Amendment to Change the Library Voting Date

Secretary DiCamillo read the following regarding the upcoming Bylaw Amendment vote:

"At the November board meeting, Ms. Bernstein distributed a written proposal concerning the petition to amend the bylaws and by a majority vote, the Board approved her proposal. There was no opportunity for discussion, nor was I given the opportunity to review the proposal prior to the vote. In keeping with the spirit of Assemblyman DiNapoli's recent comments on ethics in politics, although the majority rules in a democracy, minority opinions must be heard and respected. Having said that, the following represents my minority opinion concerning the Bylaw change.

A petition to amend the Bylaws of the Great Neck Library by changing the date of the library election from January to May was put forth by over 400 Association members. On January 24, 2000, residents will vote to determine whether they prefer to hold library elections in January or in May. A majority of the Trustees of the Great Neck Library Board have gone on record opposing the proposed change. After careful consideration of all the relevant issues, I believe the reasons appear to be misleading and submit the following minority opinion in support of the proposed change to the Bylaws.

- Reduced Cost: In 1999 the library election cost the taxpayers over \$26,000. The cost is in large part due to the need to rely on an expensive and labor intensive proxy ballot process. A May election, with better weather and more voters in town, would lessen the need for proxies and increase the use of voting machines.*
- Increases Voter Turnout: A May election, with better weather and more voters in town would increase the absolute number of members that vote. An election held in conjunction with the school and library budget vote also increases the likely voting base.*
- Simplifies the Process: Residents already vote for the library budget on the 3rd Tuesday in May. Coordinating the budget vote and the election of the trustees*

is practical and simpler; written information about the budget and the election of the trustees can be distributed together.

- *Precedent for Feasibility: The library must provide Association members with written notification of their proper voting place. The Great Neck Park District, Water Authority and Sewer District successfully hold simultaneous elections at different sites for an overlapping electorate. This practical example directly contradicts the majority statement suggesting that a May election would confuse residents because the library and school electorate would have to vote at different sites.*
- *Library Authority is not ceded to the School District: The proposal makes no request nor does it propose to give the Great Neck School District any authority to conduct Library business.*

The petition simply calls for a change in the date for the library election. The issue that voters need to consider is, do residents want to vote in May or January? This is a decision for Library Association members to decide on January 24, 2000. The Great Neck Library is funded solely by local taxes and local governments should be responsive to the needs of the community. The petition merely requests that a May election be considered by the voters on January 24."

Public Comment:

Valerie Feinman supports the May date. The January date conflicts with the ALA Mid-winter Conference.

Bobbie Zeller believed that the use of proxies does not disenfranchise people; it maximizes the opportunity to vote. She asked if President Schwartz would summarize the Board of Education meeting when a discussion ensued about this subject.

President Schwartz said that there was no formal vote on the matter, but every member of the Board of Education spoke out against having the School and Library Vote on the same day in May.

Ralene Adler stated that those opinions were of a personal nature and not the official opinions of the Board of Education.

JoAnn Farley believes that having School and Library elections on same day in different places would not cause confusion.

Bobbie Zeller added that not only would there be confusion, but fewer people would vote.

OPEN TIME: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon motion by Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Joyce Klein, the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marietta DiCamillo
Secretary