

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
BUDGET REVIEW
Tuesday, March 14, 1995**

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library was held on **Tuesday, March 14, 1995**, at the office of the Library on Bayview Avenue, Great Neck, N.Y. 11024.

The following Trustees were present constituting a quorum:

Ralene Adler
Elayne Bernstein
Jo Ann Farley
Muriel Kane
Dolly Relkin
Renée Zarin

Absent with prior notification: Arthur Lerner

Also present: Ken Weil, Library Director
Attendance Sheet

CALL TO ORDER

President, Renée Zarin, called the public meeting to order at 6:40 p.m. She stated that there were two items on the agenda for discussion: the Building Program and the Proposed 1996 Budget.

BUILDING PROGRAM

Dolly Relkin was asked to repeat her question raised at the meeting of February 28, 1995. She asked how did the Building Committee arrive at the 34,000 sq. ft. number, and what did it represent?

Muriel Kane replied the Committee had addressed concerns expressed by the Citizen Building Advisory Committee; concerns in response to the environmental issues; and to assure that the Committee would not have to ask for a variance for any plans they are considering. They had also addressed several options discussed with the Citizens' Building Advisory Committee such as extending the mezzanine which would reduce the space that would have to extend out into the parking area; asking the architect for a two-story building; and having different uses of interior space by using

compact shelving. Staff has not reviewed this proposal. Ralene Adler pointed out that the Citizens' Advisory Committee recommended an expansion of 20,000 sq. ft.

Renee Zarin asked if everyone felt comfortable with the Board's Building Committee continuing. The Board repeated they were waiting for definitive answers to their questions of 2/28/95. Relkin asked the Committee to explain how they could ask the Board to adopt a resolution for a "mandate to move the process forward" if they do not have a workable plan, there were no acceptable designs or specifications, they did not have square footage priorities for allocation of space, they had not provided definitive information on the environment, no details on funding, public hearings, etc.

Ralene Adler also opposed the resolutions in the Interim Report of the Building Committee originally presented on 2/28/95. She again asked for definitive environmental documents, as well as expressing ethical and moral concerns about the environment. She requested an answer to the question of what happens to Udall's Pond and the "Wetlands" if construction takes place on the site. Adler envisions a different way of functioning over the next 25 years, and proposed the Committee widen their focus on this project.

Jo An Farley stated she has been asking the same questions over and over again and still does not have answers. She felt the report did not address the questions of the impact on the environment, the funding, size, or how or when the public will participate in a building expansion program. She restated that she did not agree with the resolutions.

Muriel Kane expressed a considerable sense of urgency to review plans. The resolutions of the Building Committee were withdrawn by the Committee after rejection by the Board. Renée Zarin stated they were not needed. Zarin also stated the Committee was going to go ahead with or without the Board; that the Committee will meet to do their work, and Renée Zarin will fill the vacancy on the Committee. (Muriel Kane and Elayne Bernstein).

The Branch Committee (Jo Ann Farley, Ralene Adler, and Elyane Bernstein) were asked to assess the needs of Station and Lakeville Branches. Renée Zarin stated that the Parkville lease negotiations were underway and suggested that the Committee consider including in their report the history, philosophy, cost, staff requirements, and changing demographics of that branch. It was hoped that the report to the Board could be made in June.

After a five-minute break the public meeting reconvened at 7:30 p.m.

TRUSTEE VACANCY

Renée Zarin reported that the Board received two names from the Nominating Committee so that the Board may select one candidate to fill the vacant seat of Richard Fuhrman until the election at the next Annual Meeting in January 1996. The candidates will be interviewed in Executive Session on either April 4th or 11th. Criteria for the Selection of Trustees, proposed questions, biographical information and documentation will be sent to all Board members in advance.

BUDGET DISCUSSION

Renée Zarin, President, stated that the Preliminary Budget is prepared by the Library Director, who then meets with the Investment/Budget Committee. Then the Board meets to discuss and review the Budget as many times as they need. The Board then votes on the Budget which is then placed with the School Board to be voted on by the community.

Dolly Relkin objected to the President Renée Zarin and Treasurers Muriel Kane and Elayne Bernstein reviewing the Budget prior to whole Board review - stating that the whole Board should look at it to enable Trustees to fulfill their obligations and fiduciary responsibility by listening to and participating in all discussions. If one, two, or three Board member meet with the Director, the public is also denied the ability to hear the discussions. Renée Zarin responded that the Treasurers and President, prior to the meeting, referred to the current Board policy as stated in the Board Policy Manual (Great Neck Library Policy Manual D7, page D10). Dolly Relkin

stated that the Policy Renée Zarin referred to was adopted in 1994, and when she (Relkin) objected to the same language, i.e. meeting with the Director prior to the Board, was told it was never the "intent" of the Treasurers to meet prior to the whole Board review.

The issue of policy concerning Budget Review was referred to the Board Policy Committee to review and submit their recommendations on this matter.

Ken Weil reviewed the Revenue category of the budget which showed a 1.6% increase. Each category in Expenditures was reviewed and discussed up to Employee Benefits. The recommended total budget for 1996 is \$5,970,552, of which \$5,782,052 is to be raised by taxation, representing a tax increase of six cents. A typical homeowner's library tax (for a home assessed at \$10,000) would increase by \$6.00 for a total Library Tax of \$226 for 1996.

Three Board members (Dolly Relkin, Jo Ann Farley & Ralene Adler) requested the Director prepare a list of repairs to the Main Library that have not been addressed for several years because of discussions about a proposed building expansion. These Trustees felt that safety and security repairs are a priority and that they must be considered in the allocation of surplus funds.

OTHER

Dolly Relkin reported on a very successful art opening of the Alliance of Queens Artists on Saturday evening, March 11, 1995, from 7-9 p.m. Several hundred people attended. Openings were switched from Sunday afternoon to Saturday evening a few years ago to relieve some of the congestion in the Library. The Board might want to review programming hours for all programs.

ADJOURNMENT

Upon motion duly made and seconded, the public meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Dolly Relkin
Secretary