

**GREAT NECK LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Tuesday, August 2, 1999
8:00 P.M.**

Approved 9/14/99

DRAFT

A Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library was held on **Monday, August 2, 1999**, at the Main Library Building, Multi-Purpose Room, Bayview Avenue at Grist Mill Lane, 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
Steve Glaser, Assistant Treasurer
Joyce Klein

Absent with prior notice: Bette Weidman

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 present to the Special Meeting.

1999 Retirement Incentive

Upon motion by Elayne Bernstein, seconded by Steve Glaser, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library does hereby elect to provide the benefits of Chapter 70 of the Laws of 1999, commencing on November 1, 1999, for all eligible employees who retire with an effective date of retirement set during the 61 day period beginning and immediately following the commencement date and who are otherwise eligible as specified by Chapter 70.

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

Web Based Computing and Public Libraries Conference

Upon motion by Steve Glaser, seconded by Elayne Bernstein, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library authorize the attendance of Library Director Christine Salita at the Web Based Computing and Public Libraries Conference to be held in Berkeley, California, in October 1999 at a cost not to exceed \$1250.

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

Engagement of Consultant for Main Library Study Project

Upon motion by Elayne Bernstein, seconded by Joyce Klein, and after discussion, it was,

RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Great Neck Library, as part of the planning process for the future of the Main Library Building, wishes to solicit input from the community so that decisions are made in an informed context. To this end, the Board wishes to have an independent consultant conduct a written survey of all Great Neck Library Association members and to have a series of focus groups/small group interviews conducted. The Library Director is authorized to engage the services of Dr. Manual London for this purpose. The total cost of this project including preparation, implementation and analysis, including all production and mailing costs, shall not exceed \$15,000. Funds to be charged against the Main Building and Special Services Fund.

President Schwartz commented that Dr. London is a researcher of national reputation, highly respected in his field. Trustee Glaser remarked that the community supports Library activities and feels that if renovation plans are well articulated, then the Public will be supportive. Vice President Bernstein reminded the Board of previous renovation attempts that did not come to fruition. She feels it's in everyone's best interest to have an impartial, unbiased party collect data to be used as part of the decision making process. Trustee Klein said she had conversations with individuals from the Port Washington Library that said they regretted not have used the services of a consultant. Trustee Moore, based upon her experience; found the consultant's objective standpoint to be of great value. Secretary DiCamillo reminded the Board that based upon its own financial policy of three bids, one additional consultant should be interviewed prior to the job being awarded. She added that she would like to see the Board meet to discuss its own vision for the Main Library. Director Salita detailed the qualitative and quantitative nature of the research to be performed by Dr. London and gave an outline of the contemplated timeframe (focus groups/small group interviews to be conducted before the end of the year, survey next spring.)

Public Comment:

Rebecca Gilliar-commented that the Board should focus on putting its own thoughts together, should keep survey on a personal level.

Bill Morrill-finding the Board's actions responsible and appropriate.

Shirley Samansky-regarding future of computers in Library and hiring a professional to evaluate future computer needs.

Ralene Adler-defining environmental factors which could be impacted by an expansion.

VOTE: Yes - 5 (Bernstein, Glaser, Klein, Moore, Schwartz)

No - 1 (DiCamillo)

Motion Carried

Policy and Bylaws Committee Recommendations

Proxy Ballot

President Schwartz said that the Policy and Bylaws Committee favored modifying the Bylaws to remove the proxy ballot signature requirement. The signature would instead be required on the inner envelope of a double envelope system. Director Salita detailed the new process, utilizing a mock-up of the proposed proxy ballot and double envelope combination.

Public Comment:

Emanuel Kline-new design works well and is very similar to a standard absentee ballot.

Bill Morrill-would there be a control number for ballot authenticity.

Date of Trustee/Nominating Committee Election:

President Schwartz explained that the Committee has been reviewing the Library's election timetable in light of the recommendations of the League of Women Voters. The League recommended changing the date of the election from January to late fall (mid-November) with actual office to be assumed in January immediately after the election. If there is to be a change in date, the Committee could support the recommendation of the League. Dr. Schwartz summarized the affected election dates.

Trustee Glaser supports no change in dates and expressed concern that the Library election would be lost in the general election. Secretary DiCamillo expressed interest in having the Library vote on the same date as the School District election and Library budget vote in May. She felt it could be accomplished by utilizing a separate Library voting table and added that after the first year any confusion would be greatly reduced. Trustee Klein would not consider the May date at this time. President Schwartz suspects that a November date might result in a lower Library election profile, since general elections are held this month also. Given the fact that voter eligibility requirements are different for the Library and School elections, he thought confusion alone would rule out the May date. Treasurer Moore supports retaining the January election date.

Public Comment:

Emanuel Kline-favors a January voting date, but would prefer a greater span of time between the Nominating Committee announcement and the filing date for independent candidate petitions.

Karen Rubin-November date would be confusing to the public and a May date seems to make sense.

Bill Morrill-contrasted the large number of people voting in Library and School elections with the very small number at Sewer District and other such elections.

Rebecca Gilliar-Library should contact School District on May date. If Dr. Shine or the School Board oppose it then it's a "no-go."

Ralene Adler-Asked when the Board would consider the petition she presented concerning a change in voting date?

Petition Received:

President Schwartz then announced that the Board was in receipt of a petition with a cover letter signed by Ralene Adler, calling for a change in the election date to May. The text of the petition reads as follows: "*Pursuant to Article X of the By-laws of the Great Neck Library, the undersigned members of the Great Neck Library hereby request that the following proposed amendments to the By-laws be considered and voted upon and that it be done at the forthcoming January 2000 annual meeting of the Library.*" Dr. Schwartz stated that Article X of the Bylaws requires that a special election must be held within 120 days of the receipt of a petition to amend the Bylaws; therefore, a vote must be scheduled prior to Thanksgiving. Mrs. Adler stated that it was not her intent, nor the intent of the petition's signers, to trigger a special election. Dr. Schwartz explained that the Bylaws are the governing document of the Library and cannot be disregarded. Official opinion of counsel will be sought. Mrs. Adler continued that she and the 300 people who signed the petition support the May voting date and wish the Board to explore this possibility.

Public Comment:

Leslie Popoff-people who cannot vote in person have the option of using a proxy ballot.

Bill Morrill-queried Ms. Adler if it were the intent of the petitioners to reduce the number of polling places from the Library's four to the School's two.

Marianna Wohlgemuth-if a special election is required, she will withdraw her name from the petition for cost consideration.

Ralene Adler-wishes to be informed when official legal opinion is received.

Rebecca Gilliar-returned to the issue of the consultant and termed the Board action and subsequent vote as "railroading."

Association Membership List

At the request of Secretary DiCamillo, the Library Director explained the process currently underway to update the Great Neck Library Association membership list, including the flagging of names as a result of undeliverable proxies during the last Library election. The current re-registration process is also contributing to the accuracy of the

list. The Director explained certain points relating to the election process, such as challenge ballots and authenticating proxies. Secretary DiCamillo asked specific questions pertaining to the process and was concerned that it would eventually result in people being blocked from voting. She asked that the Board consider hiring an outside agency to check on residency, or coordinate with the School district. The Director stated that it could affect the 2001 election. Trustee Klein was glad that we are updating the library card registration files so systematically.

Public comment:

Leslie Popoff-very happy that the library is doing updating the list in the manner it is.

Ralene Adler-concerned about the great amount of time being spent by library professionals in the overall election and re-registration process.

OPEN TIME:

Emanuel Kline-everyone who cares about the Library should re-register.

Don Stern-commended the Director and stated that the re-registration and election processes are fair and reasonable.

ADJOURNMENT:

Upon a motion by Secretary Marietta DiCamillo, seconded by Vice President Elayne Bernstein, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marietta DiCamillo
Secretary