

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

July 18, 2012

6:30 PM

MINUTES

Julie Mills Worthey who presided called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Present was: Na'im Tyson,

Absent were: Millie Burns, Marcia Dupree and Winston Maharaj

Also present: Gary Newman, CSEA Unit President, Ruth Shire, Friends of the Mount Vernon Public Library; Karen Blaine, Rebecca Steere and Tamara Stewart, library patrons; Leroy Lea and Cheryl Thomas, library staff and Mary Harper, Administrative Assistant.

Julie Mills Worthey said she would attend the next PLDA meeting with the idea of setting up a series of follow up meetings to modify the CLDA budget so that more funds would come to Mount Vernon. Gary Newman reminded Mrs. Worthey that the next PLDA meeting was scheduled for September.

Mrs. Worthey said that Terry Kirchner had suggested follow up meetings in August.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the civil service commission has but the agenda for the library on hold until its next meeting.

Mrs. Worthey said civil service informed her that several people from the library came before the commission to voice their concerns.

She said that the library would be moving forward.

Mrs. Worthey said that the library had asked for approval of a civil service position and this will have a huge impact.

Julie Mills Worthey said that it was disturbing that people from the library did not support it.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that in order to comply with civil service, the position title will be director. Chief Administrator was only used to highlight the qualifications

Leroy Lea asked if there was a problem with the description.

Na'im Tyson said more than just the description.

Tamara Stewart said that there was some confusion about what was being asked. She said there was an impression that there was a change in titles.

Ms. Stewart asked why the board requested a change in title. She said in New York State there is no such title as chief administrator.

Tamara Stewart said that what is being proposed is out of alignment with the title.

Ms. Stewart said that clarification is needed. It was never explained in terms of legality why this title was requested.

**PERIOD OF PUBLIC EXPRESSION:**

Karen Blaine expressed her concerns about the children's room. Ms. Blaine said that she had been given the opportunity by the former director to have enrichment programs for children ages four to six.

The purpose was to enhance literacy.

The former director gave the okay, once a month from September to December.

After the program ended she thought about the library and the experience.

Ms. Blaine said that the children's room was unorganized and unstructured compared to other libraries. Other libraries were more organized.

Karen Blaine said that she believes that the children's room is still very unorganized and needs to be a place where children want to come.

As a teacher's assistant who works with special needs children with autism she said this had an impact on her.

Julie Mills Worthey asked Ms. Blaine what she saw that was unorganized.

Karen Blaine said that there were chairs in the center of the floor, kids playing on the floor a couple of feet away and kids on the computer back and forth. Age groups do not have separate spaces and she believes it is unstructured.

Ms. Blaine continued to address what she felt were problems with the computers, furniture and lack of modernization. She also said the entrance space to the children's room should be refurbished.

Julie Mills Worthey said that Ms. Blaine's comments were appreciated and that she thinks the staff would like to see the room updated.

Na'im Tyson said that the building itself has issues with organization. It is over one hundred years old and the library is working on capital improvement.

He said that the library is working on improving its computers and securing the wiring. Newer machines are smaller, but there is a lot more room.

Mr. Tyson said that he has been in an area during the morning where he can see the children's room and has not seen any huge amount of disorganization.

Na'im Tyson said that if we make any major changes; there is a problem with the roof and refurbishing could be damaged. The roof must be redone first.

Karen Blaine said that she is not expecting a change to happen right away. The library could start with making little changes overtime.

She said that she would even try to get people from the community if that would help.

Ms. Blaine said that it is very sad going in the children's room.

Mrs. Mills Worthey said that she like the idea of community involvement and this might be a place to start the discussion. She said that she is open to having a conversation with the community.

Karen Blaine asked in terms of funding, where the money would come from.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the library is working on grants; where the children's room falls in the scheme of things, she is not sure.

Ms. Blaine said that she is willing to get residents to help, but at the same time, she wants to know what the library will contribute.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the board may have a special meeting in August to firm up the proposal.

#### FINANCIAL MATTERS:

Julie Mills Worthey said that the budget is on line in terms of spending. She said Mr. Maharaj did not see anything to be concerned about in terms of utilizing the budget to date.

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Julie Mills Worthey said that she received a reminder about the Girl Scout Circle of Friends project.

Some staff members made a donation for the garden project, but it did not happen.

Ms. Worthey has sent messages to Toba Lumbantobing of the Girl Scouts every few weeks for an update.

Julie Mills Worthey said that it does not appear that the Girl Scouts are interested.

Mrs. Worthey said that the staff wants the board to advise them if they should contact Ms. Lumbantobing.

Mrs. Worthey said that the board is not advising the staff otherwise.

The board does not take any position for or against.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the reception for the Fish Tales exhibit from ArtsWestchester was not promoted. The information was received right before the event.

The exhibit does not appear to be complete.

Mrs. Worthey said that she is recommending a conversation be had with ArtsWestchester about the caliber of its exhibits and the time frame for promotionals.

She said that in a quest to be a world class institution, what we invite into the library should reflect those goals.

Julie Mills Worthey said that the staff was moving ahead with material purchases and that their proposals had been approved.

Mrs. Worthey said that she was excited about collection enhancement and particularly the urban fiction.

The proposals will be revisited in October to see where we stand.

ADJOURNMENT:

The board meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm to discuss personnel matters.

Respectfully

Secretary