

Memo to: White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
From: Libby Hollahan
Date: November 7, 2012
Re: White Plains Library Foundation Report

Gala Summary:

The Fall Gala, held Nov. 3, was very successful, coming at the end of a difficult week for the community due to the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. Guests had plenty of storm stories to share and the mood was very lively. People were highly grateful to the Library for having extended hours to help people without power.

Thanks to our honorees as well as community support for the Library, we had the largest guest list ever for a Gala, a total of 195. Actual attendance was 175 guests, plus 6 high school volunteers and 4 Library staff members, as power outages and travel problems prevented some guests from attending. The Allstate Foundation contingent, mainly coming from Long Island, had to cancel because of serious outages there, and their priority was on catastrophe response for Allstate policy holders.

Mayor Roach, Commissioner Chong, and most members of the Common Council were there, as were Assembly Members Amy Paulin, Robert Castelli, and George Latimer.

Event logistics ran smoothly, starting with cocktails and buffet on the first floor. Caperry (the caterer) did a fantastic job (many compliments on the food) despite having had no power until two days before the Gala. The layout worked well and there was plenty of seating for everyone (including rented bar stools for the bookshelf counters).

We had a raffle sale (staffed by teens from the WPHS XC team), a "Fund-A-Chair" Giving Tree, and a treasure hunt for make-believe book titles associated with the honorees.

The program took place in the auditorium, which was filled to capacity. Foundation President Nick Wolff served as emcee, with additional Library remarks from Paul Schwarz and Brian Kenney. The remarks focused on the honorees, the Library's responsiveness to the community during the storm, and the renovation project and campaign. The Foundation's video, "Transforming Lives, Every Day," was shown, but, disappointingly, its impact was diluted by transmission problems. Mayor Roach gave a spirited recap of the crazy week (calling himself "Robo Tom") and thanked the Library for its service to the community.

Commissioner Chong accepted the award for The Allstate Foundation and read a lovely statement they sent when they had to cancel. Richard Gardella gave a highly entertaining introduction of honoree Fred Perkins, focusing on their days at WPHS and Fred's career highlights. In acceptance, Fred pointed out the many WPHS classmates who were in attendance, and talked about how the George and Lucia Perkins Senior Citizen Fund had come about. Steve Schainman, one of Fred's classmates, presented a special cartoon about Fred. The final award was presented by Donald Stevens, one of Coach Fred Singleton's former student-athletes. His remarks clearly indicated the difference Coach Singleton has made in the lives of so many young adults. "Coach Sing" gave an inspiring acceptance speech about how his coaching style focused on "PED" (persistence, effort, and determination, NOT performance-enhancing drugs) and also talked about how his own education and love of history had been encouraged by the Mt. Vernon Library where he grew up.

At the end of the program, Assemblyman Castelli won the raffle grand prize of a \$300 gift certificate to Amazon, which he kindly donated back. Dessert followed, and the gathering broke up at about 11 p.m.

Our Gala Committee did a fantastic job helping boost attendance, planning decorations, getting journal ads, recruiting teen volunteers, and running the raffle sale, treasure hunt, and giving tree. And as always, we could not do this event at the Library without major support from our DPW maintenance staff, especially Harry Bozier and Ricky Kornegay.

Capital Campaign Launch:

The first floor campaign, **Building New Learning Opportunities: The Edge & Beyond**, is continuing. At the Gala, we highlighted the first floor plans through the event location, renderings and speeches. We will now be following up with attendees to support the project. Additional solicitations are underway, and we should be notified about a \$50,000 grant proposal very soon.

Annual Appeal:

Planned for end of November, and will ask for Board Members' help in personalizing appeal letters.

Update on Existing/Pending Grants:

Dormitory Authority: We just received notice that the Grant Disbursement Agreement has been executed, and we are finally in a position to begin ordering equipment. The Foundation will have to advance money to purchase the equipment and then submit documentation to DASNY for reimbursement. The biggest ticket item is the self-checkout equipment for \$84,000.

Allstate: Two teen safe driving programs are scheduled during the next six weeks: "Friends Don't Let Friends Text and Drive," on Monday, Nov. 26, 7 pm, featuring safe driving advocate Jacy Good and driving school owner Steve Mochel; and a teen safe driving open house on Sat. Dec. 15, featuring WPHS music groups.

**White Plains Library Foundation
Minutes of Board of Directors Regular Meeting
September 19, 2012**

The regular meeting of the White Plains Library Foundation Board of Directors was called to order by President Nick Wolff at 9:09 a.m. in Galaxy Hall at the White Plains Public Library. Directors in attendance were: Jim Benerofe, Eileen Bradley, Yuki Haynes, Susan Hecht, Beth Kava, Gregory Keenan, Brian Kenney, Barbara Loucks, Judy Nevins, Paul Schwarz, Gail Schwartz, Diane Tabakman and Nick Wolff. Absent with notice were: Denise D'Ambrosio, G. Frederick Perkins, Jr., Richard Kaye. Also present were Foundation Executive Director Libby Hollahan and Secretary to the Library Director, Sandra McDaniel.

Minutes of Regular Meetings of July 18, 2012

The minutes of the regular meetings of July 18, 2012 were approved on a MOTION by Judy Nevins, seconded by Yuki Haynes.

President's Report

President Wolff remarked that the Friends of the Library celebrated their 65th anniversary with a breakfast last week. Mr. Wolff attended the breakfast and thanked them for their service and hoped the Friends of the Library would continue to grow.

Nick Wolff suggested that a letter from Brian Kenney be written to Brian Wallach, of the Beautification Foundation, in appreciation of the flowers they provided the library plaza.

Library Director's Report

Library Director Kenney discussed how the expanded hours have led to a 20% increase in usage at the Trove compared to last Summer and attributed this to the hard working Trove staff and increased linkages with the school system. Mr. Kenney stated that 3000 children had visited the Trove and attended 175 programs. Brian Kenney remarked that funding for Library programs mainly comes from the Friends of the Library and the Foundation and thanked them for their support.

Library Director Kenney remarked that the strategic plan was online at the library's website and had been distributed to everyone who participated in the retreat. Mr. Kenney has been working on the action plans.

Mr. Kenney and Ms. Hollahan previewed the video entitled "Transforming Lives, Everyday" that would be shown at the gala and then posted to the library website.

Mr. Kenney presented the Edge renderings online and gave a project update. The Board gave their feedback on the initial impact of the space and offered suggestions on ways to make it more cutting edge but overall the discussion was very positive.

Library Director Kenney stated that due to the increased scope of the renovation and the expansion of the Edge space, the project budget had increased and we have to defer some components of the original Phase 1 plans to a later date. Mr. Kenney also remarked that in order to qualify for New York State grants a general contractor's estimate would be needed and the deadline was the end of September. Mr. Kenney stated that this estimate would contain a very detailed final cost of the entire project and would also be helpful in the bid process. Library Director Kenney stated that the City of White Plains would pay for infrastructure (non-design related) costs. Ms. Bradley advised that the general contracting estimate would be extremely helpful in making recommendations to the Council and preparing the Library's Capital Improvement Plan. On a MOTION made by Ms. Bradley, seconded by Mr. Keenan, approval was granted to amend the budget up to \$7,000 and authorization for Mr. Kenney to go into a contract with the architect and/or general contractor to obtain a final estimate for the renovation project.