

White Plains Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of Regular Meeting
December 18, 2014

Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Paul Schwarz. In attendance were Trustees Barrera, Haynes, James, Matthews-Serra, Schwarz and Scherer. Absent with notice were Trustees Connors, D'Ambrosio and Furth. Also in attendance were Library Director Brian Kenney, Foundation Executive Director Libby Hollahan, Assistant Library Director Kathy Degyansky, and Library Director's Secretary, Sandra McDaniel.

Minutes of Regular Meeting of November 12, 2014

The minutes of the regular meeting of November 12, 2014 were approved as submitted on a MOTION by Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee Haynes.

Budget:

City Revenue & Expenditure Budget by Department as of November 30, 2014 were reviewed.

Bills: 2014/15 Budget: #8

In Trustee Furth's absence, President Schwarz reviewed the bills prior to the meeting. Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee Haynes approved payment of bill voucher, #8 on a MOTION.

Report of Library Administration

Library Director Kenney discussed the Harlem Fine Arts show that would be returning next year. Trustee Haynes asked for more information regarding the solar panels project for the library roof and Mr. Kenney responded that it was a City initiative to investigate employing solar panels to generate energy; the main purpose was to provide charging stations for electric cars in the garage beneath the Library. Trustee James asked about the new service, Hoopla, and Library Director Kenney described the service that provides unlimited simultaneous use of items, including streaming and downloadable movies and TV shows, audio books, and music exclusively for White Plains cardholders. Mr. Kenney stated that the official launch date of the service is January 10th.

Library Director Kenney remarked that he was starting a digital newsletter in conjunction with the Library Foundation to keep our patrons informed about the library. Mr. Kenney also noted that he met with the mayor and discussed new initiatives the library would like to pursue, infrastructure issues in the Library, and opportunities for better communication among city agencies.

Trustee Reports & Business

WLS –.

Friends – President Schwarz remarked that the Friends of the Library were hosting a luncheon for the staff on January 15th.

Foundation –Ms. Hollahan stated that she was continuing her work on fundraising and mentioned the plans for the Trove which is celebrating its 10th anniversary. She also discussed the upcoming Spelling Bee at the Highlands campus on February 27th and noted that a flyer was posted to the Foundation's website. Ms. Hollahan remarked that they were preparing a banner for the library to capitalize on their recent NYLA (New York Library Association) award for the building.

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Other –

Ongoing Business:

Library Director Kenney discussed capital projects and stated that Phase II of the renovation has been pushed back another year: the earliest construction could now begin would be fall 2016. The Board was disappointed by the news.

President Schwarz researched the Library Trustee Association membership and shared his findings with the Board and said he would send the Board a link to their website so they could explore it further. Trustee Schwarz noted that 50% of Westchester library boards were members and the Board could make a decision at the January meeting as to whether to join the association and how to pay for it.

Library Director Kenney stated that there were a number of security issues in The Edge – some stemming from the large numbers of teens using the facility at one time and some behavioral. Mr. Kenney remarked that they were making changes by ordering more chairs with award money they received from NYLA and the Foundation; this would give more teens a place to sit as oppose to roaming around the space. They would also station a security guard outside The Edge between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. Library Director Kenney will be developing a code of conduct that is more teen focused and will have the Board vote on it next month. Assistant Library Director Degyansky remarked that the issues were typical teenage behavior and would have a Community Policing Officer stop by to observe and give tips to the staff. Trustee Haynes asked what the maximum capacity for The Edge was and Mr. Kenney remarked that he thought it was flexible based on how space was configured but would review his notes.

New Business:

Library Director Kenney discussed the audits of public libraries in New York stated and stated overall we were in pretty good shape because we observed the policies and procedures developed by the City; it was likely that the Library would be audited in the next six months. Mr. Kenney did note that we did not have a disaster recovery plan and stated that Assistant Library Director Degyansky would be developing a plan and a draft would be available in the spring.

Mr. Kenney advised the Board that he was exploring with WLS, and eventually the City's IT department, providing free wireless access in downtown White Plains. This is a service WLS is interested in exploring.

Library Director Kenney commented on a one city, one book initiative that came out of his meeting with the mayor and other departments. Mr. Kenney stated that there is a lot of interest in one city, one book with the Youth Bureau and Recreation and Parks and the library may have the lead on this. Library Director Kenney stated that a potential partnership to expand adult programming with the Youth Bureau and Recreation and Parks also came out of the meeting with the mayor and he asked for the Board's thoughts. Mr. Kenney said the purpose of the partnership would be an opportunity to develop a better audience for senior and adult programs by having them in the Library.

Adjournment

There being no more business before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. on a MOTION by Trustee Scherer, seconded by Trustee Haynes.

Yuki Haynes, Secretary
Library Board of Trustees