

Present: T. Weitzmann, M. Liberman, B. Murphy, B. Huffman, L. Kline, B. Brodman, L. Jenkins

Absent: N. Flynn

Staff: B. Keiser, S. Butler, M. Erm

Guests: H. Corcoran, J. Groff, J. Morganthau (Board candidates)

The March 17, 2009, Board meeting of the Eastern Monroe Public Library Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 8:30 by T. Weitzmann.

The minutes of the February 17, 2009 meeting were approved on a motion by LK/BM. Carried.

Public Comments - B. Keiser reported she received an email from a patron who had read the article in the newspaper about the library considering a new branch facility in the Smithfield/Middle Smithfield area. This person would be interested in taking over the current Branch building so is most anxious to help the library get a new facility.

L. Kline noted that the article in the Pocono Record reporting on the meeting with Middle Smithfield was very accurate.

B. Keiser explained there are 4 or 5 prospective sites for a new facility in the Smithfield/Middle Smithfield area.

President's Report – No report

Treasurer's Report - M. Liberman reported on finances. He noted the library will probably be looking at some problems with tax revenues due to anticipated lower collection rates.

BB/LK moved to approve the bills. Carried

BB/LJ moved to approve the Treasurer's Report. Carried.

Buildings and Equipment - B. Huffman reported a metal plaque mounted on a post acknowledging the Rotary Club's donation of the planters for the front of the library has been delivered and will be installed in front of the building near the planters. She explained there will also be a recognition plaque acknowledging the generosity of the MC Garden Club and the Pocono Mountain Garden Club.

The fence around the garden is scheduled to be repaired by Jason Cobb.

An updated proposal has been received from L&L for repair/replacement of the lighting on the sign at the route 611 entrance to the library.

She reported that staff has compiled a wish list for 2009; vents in the restrooms as well as a second stall in the men's room; curbing at the front entrance should be re-cut – it is in the wrong place; possibly some type of fencing at the front entrance to protect children and adults from stepping out into traffic; electrical outlets on the center post in the Community Room; additional lighting at the back of the building.

L. Jenkins noted seeing more and good publicity for Hughes and the branches. She extended congratulations to the staff for the programs that are being presented at the branches

Policy – L. Jenkins reported on two policies for review. The "Behavior Policy" and the "Parental Responsibility Policy" will be sent to the Board for their review for action at the April meeting.

"Borrowing" and "Materials and Recovery" will be the next policies to be reviewed. She explained the Personnel Committee will address the personal use of computers and telephones and recommended these issues be addressed in the Personnel Manual.

Personnel – T. Weitzmann asked the Board to meet in Executive Session at the end of today's meeting to discuss the Board vacancy.

Ad-hoc: Smithfields. B. Keiser reported there was a meeting of this committee with the Middle Smithfield township supervisors and the library's needs were brought to the forefront. There is space in the Smithfield Twp building the committee will look at to determine if it would be a suitable potential location for a branch. The twp would like to have the library there, but it is not clear if this would be a rental situation.

L. Kline – noted that Middle Smithfield Township Supervisors are interested in having the library in their municipality. B. Keiser noted it all comes down to what we can afford and what kind of support we will have from the township/s. She explained the library currently has a 99 year lease with the owner of Foxmoor at a cost of \$1.00 per year. If we cease loaning books at that building it will revert to the owner.

By-laws – N. Flynn has agreed to chair the by-laws committee. Any comments, suggestions, recommendations should be passed on to N. Flynn.

Director’s Report – B.Keiser noted her written report was distributed in the monthly mailing. She explained that staff will now send the minutes of the Board meetings to the Board Secretary (B. Murphy), for review before being distributed to the Board.

M. Erm gave a Power Point presentation to the Board on the 2009 Summer Reading Program, “Be Creative at Your Library”. She explained that this presentation is made to schools, groups, etc.

B. Keiser demonstrated the library surveillance system.

Old Business – M. Liberman reported that A. Diaz has called a couple of times asking if the Board is ready to make any changes in their current investments. Mr. Diaz explained he has a presentation that is geared specifically toward non-profit organizations if the Board is interested in hearing it. M. Liberman asked what the Board would like to do as far as investments. B. Brodman noted the options are limited - the only way we can get a much better return is to invest in longer term cd’s which is not an option. L. Kline suggested the Board see if it is possible to get a better return with Mr. Diaz and still keep the money safe. L. Kline suggested asking A. Diaz for the best rate we can get on an 18 month cd. If a better rate is not an option, the library should leave it where it is. L. Jenkins suggested that if what we are doing is working and it has served us well, we should keep the status quo. L. Jenkins commented that the “laddered” cd investments seemed to be the best plan. M. Liberman will ask Mr. Diaz for the best rates on cd’s from 3 months to 2 years.

B. Keiser explained the \$500k from the Garland Sloan bequest was donated with no specific use designated. Since the bequest was received from someone who lived in the Smithfields’ area it was determined by the board it should be designated for a branch facility in that area.

The task force will need to weigh all the options before moving forward.

B. Keiser and T. Weitzmann answered questions regarding Board requirements from the three Board candidates.

TW/ML moved to go into Executive Session at 9:40. Carried.

TW/ML moved to come out of Exec Session at 10:08. Carried.

TW/BH moved to appoint J. Morgenthau to the Board of Directors as the Commissioner’s appointee. Carried.

TW/BB moved to reluctantly accept L. Jenkins resignation effective when a replacement is appointed. Carried. ML voted no.

ML/LK moved to nominate Joan Groff as a replacement for L. Jenkins to be presented to ES/Stroudsburg/Ham District. Carried.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15.