

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
OF THE  
DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 10, 2010**

**MINUTES**

**ROLL CALL**

President Daniels called the meeting to order in the Library Meeting Room at 7:34 p.m. Trustees present: DiCola, Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Read and Daniels. Trustees absent: None. Also Present: Library Director Bowen, Assistant Library Director Carlson. Visitors: one visitor who did not identify himself.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Board reviewed the minutes of the regular meeting of January 27, 2010. It was moved by Eblen and seconded by Greene **THAT THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 27, 2010 BE APPROVED AS WRITTEN.** Ayes: DiCola, Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Daniels. Abstentions: Read. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**PAYMENT OF INVOICES**

The Board reviewed the list of invoices submitted for payment. It was moved Humphreys and seconded by Read **TO APPROVE PAYMENT OF OPERATING INVOICES FOR FEBRUARY 10, 2010 TOTALING \$50,465.58, AND ACKNOWLEDGE PAYROLLS FOR JANUARY TOTALING \$167,943.09.** Ayes: DiCola, Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Read, Daniels. Abstentions: none. Nays: none. Motion carried.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS**

None.

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON OTHER LIBRARY BUSINESS**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None.

## **REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION**

Bowen reported that while staff are moving full-speed into the new fiscal year, the first two months are a fairly quiet time for the Board.

The Staff In Service Day was January 29. Staff generally keep In Service Day pretty up-beat, but Bowen's portion of the day did include a fairly detailed explanation of library finances. He also discussed why municipalities and libraries that depend on sales tax revenue have experienced massive budget cuts in 2009, while most libraries funded by property tax have not yet experienced that drop in revenue. He explained that the funding crunch for the library is delayed, but that the library will very likely begin to feel that crunch when the new assessed valuation of the Village is released in the spring. Bowen's talk emphasized that the library does have some reserve funds and that there will be time to plan for the possible reduction of property tax revenue in 2011 budget. The response in the evaluations of the day seem to be very positive – in the sense that staff appreciated the explanation of where library funding comes from, as well as the advance notice that things might get tough in the future. Bowen was also pleased and relieved that several staff actually noted that he had explained the process in way that they could understand. Not always easy when talking about levies, assessed valuation, and budgets.

Bowen reported that staff have been asked to be mindful of expenditures this year. The departments are in the process of estimating the office supplies that will be needed for the next six months and the library will seek proposals on a larger bulk order, rather than monthly orders to try for a bigger discount than the library normally receives.

Administration and management will take a close look at every vacancy that occurs and consider if and how each position should be filled. At this time it has been decided not to fill two positions -- a part-time tech support position and a part-time shelver position that are currently vacant. There is also a vacant children's librarian position. This full-time position must be filled, in order to maintain our current level of children's programming. However it has been advertised as an entry-level position that will be filled at the beginning of the pay grade. This will result in a savings of \$4,000 per year from the amount budgeted for salary and benefits for this position. Staff have begun working on up-dating the library's technology plan. The new plan will give us a framework to use to target grant opportunities for hardware and software.

The Board Packet contained an article from Publisher's Weekly called "On the Ropes?" by Robert Darnton. The article discussed the future of the book. This one really resonated with Bowen because he has been pondering the future of books and libraries himself this winter. When he started reading the article he thought it was going to be another feel good article about how books will be around forever. But then Darnton wrote "The future is digital." This would have depressed Bowen a year ago, but this winter he has started to become much more comfortable with the notion of ebooks. The new ebook readers actually seem to be pretty good. What is more, the library has patrons coming in saying that they got an ebook reader for Christmas; does their library have books for them? This was a sort of epiphany for Bowen. In the past the library has circulated ebook readers that patrons borrowed to try out as a curiosity, but

now patrons have their own devices and are beginning to come to the library for books to read on them.

This winter the library switched to the eMedia Library consortium for access to downloadable audio books, because it has many more I-Pod compatible titles and a much more convenient interface than our previous source of audio down-loads. In addition, eMedia offers books in formats that are compatible with the new ebook readers like Sony and Nook. So staff can say yes, when a patron asks if the library has a collection of ebooks that can be borrowed for their reader. Darnton's notion that ebooks are just another format in which libraries can provide books to their patrons came along just in time to reinforce Bowen's own changing attitude toward digital media and his changing vision of the place for ebooks in the library.

Trustee Read had informed Bowen that Read will probably have to miss the February 24 Board Meeting. Bowen asked the other Trustees to verify that they would be able to attend, in order to ensure that a quorum would be available to approve the Annual Statistical Report to the State Library.

### **TRUSTEE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION**

Trustee Read reported that the Metropolitan Library System was hosting its annual legislative breakfast on Monday, February 15. Read and Bowen plan to attend, other Trustees are welcome.

Read reported that the State has released a portion of the funding that was overdue to Illinois Library Systems. The funding was released on Thursday, perhaps not coincidentally following an advocacy campaign that resulted in over 20,000 emails in support of Illinois Library Systems being sent to the governor and comptroller on Wednesday. The Metropolitan Library System was able to restore the funds that had temporarily been transferred from the construction fund to the operating fund, and has not had to use the line of credit that had been established to deal with the funding emergency.

Read reported that he planned to attend the Illinois Library Association Annual Workshop for Library Trustees on February 27, and invited other Trustees to attend as well.

Trustee DiCola gave the Board an up-date on the Library Foundation Mini Golf event that will be held in March 21. Most of the holes are sponsored, but there are still a few opportunities available for potential sponsors.

### **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.