

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2015, 7:30 P.M.  
LIBRARY MEETING ROOM**

**MINUTES**

1. **Call to order.** President Kathleen DiCola called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.
2. **Roll call.** Members Present: Trustee Susan Eblen, Trustee Wendee Greene, Trustee David Humphreys, Trustee Daniel Loftus, Trustee Thomas Read, President Kathleen DiCola.

Also present: Director Rick Ashton, Assistant Director for Support Services Sue O'Brien, Downers Grove citizen William Wrobel.

3. **Welcome to visitors.** President DiCola welcomed staff and visitors and thanked them for their presence.
4. **Approval of Minutes.**
  - a. Regular Monthly Meeting, January 28, 2015. It was moved by Greene and seconded by Loftus THAT the Minutes of the January 28 meeting be approved as submitted. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.
5. **Approval of invoices and financial reports.** It was moved by Humphreys and seconded by Read THAT operating invoices totaling \$124,718.16, credit memos totaling \$505.98 be approved, and January 2015 payrolls totaling \$313,054.19 be recognized. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
6. **Public comment on agenda items.** President DiCola invited comment. There was none.
7. **Public comment on other Library business.** President DiCola invited comment.

William Wrobel addressed the Board on two matters. He requested that the Board reconsider the Library practice that permits cell phone use on the second floor, attempting to restore a quiet environment, especially in the public computer area. He requested that the Board direct Library staff to monitor conditions around the trash dumpsters located on Village of Downers Grove property northeast of the Library building, reporting problems to Village authorities or to him.

**8. Unfinished Business.**

- a. Policy on Exhibits and Displays. Requested Action: Approval. It was moved by Humphreys and seconded by Eblen THAT the proposed Policy be approved as presented. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
- b. Policy on Service Commitments. Requested action: Approval. After discussion, the Board requested that this document be named a Values Statement, rather than a Policy. It was moved by Eblen and seconded by Humphreys THAT the proposed document be approved. Roll call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
- c. Minor Adjustments to 2015 Operating Budget. Requested Action: Approval. Ashton presented the proposed changes. He noted that they would allow spending for books and other materials to increase by 5% (from \$618,000 to \$648,000) and spending for additional building improvements to increase by 43% (from \$70,000 to \$100,000), and that the total budget remained at \$5,042,500. It was moved by Loftus and seconded by Greene THAT the proposed budgetary adjustments be approved. Roll Call: Ayes: Eblen, Greene, Humphreys, Loftus, Read, DiCola. Nays: none. Abstentions: none.
- d. Library Building Renovation Project, Additional Work. Requested Action: Discussion. Ashton reported that estimates for removal and replacement of acoustical panels, totaling approximately \$42,000, have been received, but no estimates for additional lighting work have yet been developed. The Board discussed possible alternative bidding strategies, priorities, and the need for additional information, especially relating to the need for acoustical panels, before making any significant commitments.

**9. New Business.**

- a. Operating Fund Balance Report for 2015. Requested Action: Receive Report. Ashton presented the report, indicating a projected December 31, 2015 balance of \$1,938,855. This represents an increase of approximately \$12,000 from December 31, 2014.

**10. Report of the Director.** Ashton summarized his written report (attached) as follows:

- a. Food for Fines, March 14-22. This program generated over 500 pounds of food for the West Suburban Community Pantry in 2013.

- b. ReDiscover. Suggested readings and program books have been distributed to the Board. Registration for programs will begin March 2.
- c. Statements of Economic Interest. Board members can expect to receive forms by e-mail and/or postal mail in early March.
- d. Recent media coverage. Attached.
- e. Other. Ashton reported briefly on a complaint, filed by a Library patron accompanied by a service dog, with the Illinois Attorney General's Disability Rights office. Ashton stated that the complaint stems from a conversation between him and the patron, which led to a misunderstanding for which he has made apology.

#### **11. Board Member comments and requests for information.**

Trustee Humphreys reported on an article on public libraries in the current issue of the Rotarian magazine.

Trustee Read, responding to recent press reports about planning and design of major welcome signs by the Village of Downers Grove, raised the question of possible directional street signs for the Library.

President DiCola praised the appearance and content of the one-page 2014 Annual Report included in the current issue of the Library's newsletter. Other Board members agreed.

#### **12. Adjournment.** President DiCola adjourned the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

**DOWNERS GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
FEBRUARY 25, 2015**

**AGENDA ITEM 10  
REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR**

- a. Food for Fines. As in previous years, the Library will accept non-perishable food items in lieu of fine payments during the week of March 14-22. Food collected will be donated to the West Suburban Community Pantry. In 2013, this promotion resulted in the donation of over 500 pounds of food.
- b. ReDiscover. The Big Read, a cooperative program involving about ten neighboring suburban libraries, has run its course. In its place is ReDiscover, a coordinated programming effort, involving most of the same libraries. It emphasizes a range of recommended reading, rather than a single book. The 2015 spring theme is "Celebrating Home." Registration for program attendance begins March 2.
- c. Statements of Economic Interest. The DuPage County Clerk has revised the procedures for this annual requirement. Board members are likely to receive forms and instructions both by postal mail and by e-mail, soon after March 1.
- d. Recent media coverage. The film festival on February 7 got excellent attention, with attendance of about 200 people. The films are available on the Library's YouTube site.

## Downers Grove library circulation dipped in 2014

BY ANNEMARIE MANNION  
Tribune reporter

For more local news,  
go to [TribLocal.com](http://TribLocal.com).

Circulation at the Downers Grove Public Library dipped slightly as it underwent demolition of rooms and the removal of ceilings and walls as part of a major renovation project in 2014.

"Overall we've held pretty steady," said Nicole Wilhelms, adult and teen services manager.

In 2014, 950,034 items were checked out, down a little from 2013 when 969,191 items were circulated. In 2012, patrons checked out 947,934 items.

The items in the overall circulation numbers include books, movies and downloadable digital materials. Circulation of digital materials such as ebooks and audio books is not increasing as greatly as it was a few years ago, but is still ticking upward.

Total figures for circulation of digital materials

are not yet available for 2014, but the figures for the final month of the year show an increase. In December 2014, 5,332 digital materials were checked out compared to 4,791 for the same month in 2013.

As part of the renovation, Wilhelms said the library wanted to make items easier for patrons to access. It moved new materials from the second to the first floor so anyone not wanting to go upstairs could easily find them.

"They're much more accessible now," she said.

When a book is in demand, it is dubbed a Hot Read and the library orders more copies of it.

"We've tried to increase what we're offering in order to increase circulation," she said.

The library has also made a list of its top 20

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ANNEMARIE MANNION/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Patrons enter Downers Grove Public Library where circulation decreased slightly in 2014.

## Library circulation down slightly

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circulated books for 2014.

They were: "Orphan Train" by Baker Kline; "Gone Girl" by Gillian Flynn; "The Invention of Wings" by Sue Monk Kidd; "The Fault in Our Stars" by John Green; "Beautiful Ruins" by Jess Walter; "Cuckoo's Calling" by Robert Galbraith; "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman; "The Husband's Secret" by Liane Moriarty; "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand; "The Girls of August" by Anne Rivers Siddons; "Divergent" by Veronica Roth; "Still Life with Breadcrumbs" by Anna

Quindlen; "Sycamore Row" by John Grisham; "The Goldfinch" by Donna Tartt; "The Heist" by Daniel Silva; "The Girls of Atomic City" by Denise Kiernan; "Invisible" by James Patterson and David Ellis; "Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker" by Jennifer Chiaverini; "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes; and "The Longest Road" by Philip Caputo.

Wilhelms said the list shows that two categories were particularly in demand among the library's readers.

"One big theme has been historical fiction. It's been very popular," she said. "And teen literature contin-

ues to be popular."

While libraries throughout the area saw increases in circulation and usage during the economic downturn, Wilhelms said many have since seen those figures reverse as the economy has continued to recover. She indicated that Downers Grove's tactics, such as ordering more copies when an item is in high demand, have helped keep a healthy circulation at the library.

The library remained open during the \$2.4 million renovation project that took six months to complete.

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NEWS

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Wednesday, February 4, 2015

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## Film festival at Tivoli to showcase high school students' projects

By KELLI MURRAY  
kmurray@shawmedia.com

**DOWNERS GROVE**—Downers Grove South High School senior Jasmine Monet, 18, was contemplating the focus of a documentary and was torn between molecular gastronomy and student bands as the subject matter.

After a round of brainstorming with other students and instructors in the View from the Director's Chair class at the Downers Grove Public Library, a decision was made.

"Molecular gastronomy is an insane amount of science and food," Monet said. "So we decided on bands."

Monet and film partner Sydney Wagner's documentary, "Bands After Class," along with three other original documentaries directed and produced by North and South high school students, and one prequel film, will be showcased at the Downers Grove Public Library Film Festival on Saturday at Tivoli Theatre.

The other films are "Live from DG-PL's Media Lab," by Jack Scacco and Jenna Raymond; "Co-Op," by Jameson Ghalioungui, Jim Gritis and Joe Pitelka; "Less Stress," by Niara Briggs, Zack Rendek and Ray Yuson; and "Can't Touch This," by Bella Cotterell, Nina Kay and Andres Mejia.



Photo provided

Jasmine Monet and Jameson Ghalioungui participate in a class exercise, working on interviewing techniques and camera skills.

Monet was in a film studies class at South High when a presentation was made to the class last fall about a documentary film making course coming to the library. The presentation intrigued the Woodridge resident enough that she decided to sign up.

"So many people want to pursue arts and film but don't know where to go," Monet said. "They are ready for hands-on help. [In this class] you are looking at documentary films and using editing software and learning things you can

use after the class is long gone and over."

The inaugural library film class stems from a desire to connect high school students with the new media lab that was part of the library's recent renovation, according to Lynette Pittrak, teen services coordinator at the Downers Grove Public Library, who wrote a grant for the program.

"We received \$5,000 from the Best Buy Foundation for community grants that are specifically geared towards working with teens and children to

### If you go

- **WHAT:** View from the Director's Chair film screening of four original documentaries from 11 Downers Grove North and South high school students
- **WHEN:** 10:30 a.m. Saturday
- **WHERE:** Tivoli Theatre, 5021 Highland Ave., Downers Grove
- **COST:** Free
- **INFO:** [www.classiccinemas.com](http://www.classiccinemas.com)

bring 21st century technology into the classroom or community endeavors," Pittrak said.

The grant was enough to provide film equipment, including cameras, light set, a variety of lenses and microphones. A portion of the grant also went to independent Chicago film director Laura Zinger, who owns 20K Films, to guide the students during the two-hour, one day a week documentary film course that ran for eight weeks.

"I think documentary films are easier to put one together than a fiction film," Zinger said. "Anyone's documentary will be interesting because it's about people's lives."

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## • FILM

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The students were introduced to how to interview subjects for their films and the importance of a good storyline or topic, in addition to working with editing software such as FinalCut and iLife, according to Monet.

Following Zinger's guidance, Monet and Wagner ended up not interviewing their subjects in the library.

"The library is a fine place to shoot, but it's not truthful to the band's natural environment," Monet said. "So we went to their house where the band was set up in the basement and where they get their juices flowing and where they write music. They were very comfortable in their environment, so it worked out really good."

Zinger made her first documentary, "Proceed and Be Bold!", in 2008. She said she wanted the students to understand visual storytelling and visual language, which are different from a written story.

"I am blown away that they have access to cameras and video camera equip-

## Film highlights

- **"LIVE FROM DGPL'S MEDIA LAB"**: A prequel to the student documentaries that showcase the Media Lab and its equipment.
- **"BANDS AFTER CLASS"**: Explores what level of involvement is needed to create a performing, working band while still being a high school student.
- **"CO-OP"**: Spotlights how friendships can develop in the competitive, online gaming industry.
- **"LESS STRESS"**: Teachers and students at North and South high talk about stress they feel and stress management techniques.
- **"CAN'T TOUCH THIS"**: Art teachers and an artist are interviewed about the tactile nature of art, how society dissuades people from touching things and what draws people into art.

ment," Zinger said. "It is such a great resource and the community should totally support it. I hope other libraries pick this up and replicate it across America. That would be amazing."

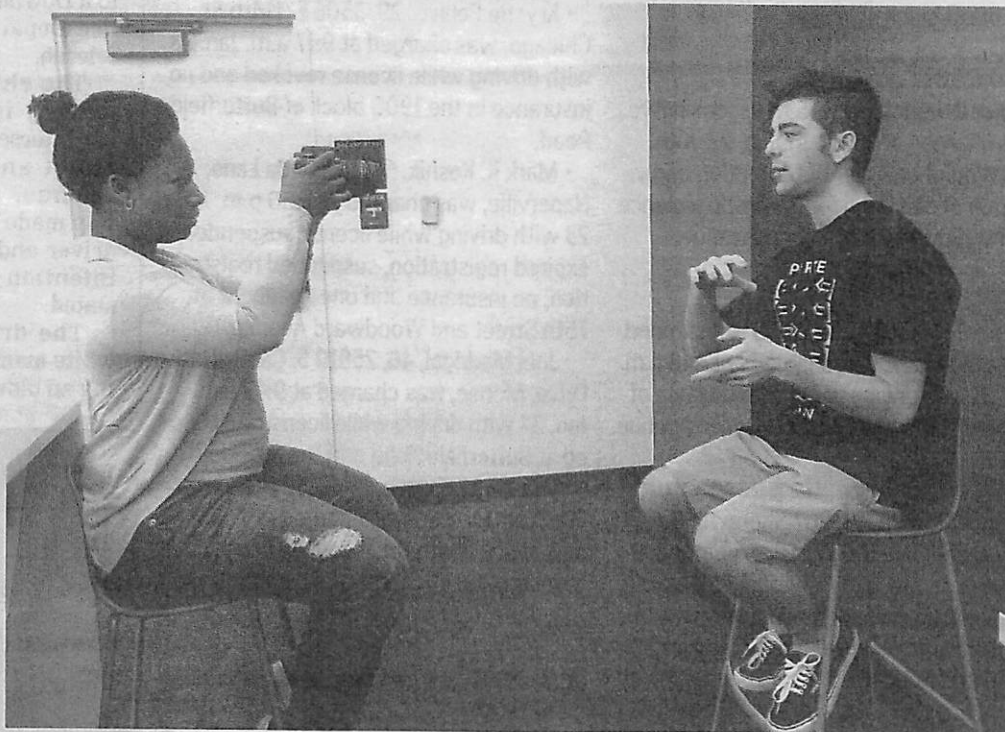


Photo provided

**Jasmine Monet and Jameson Ghalioungui work on interviewing techniques and camera skills during the View from the Director's Chair class at the Downers Grove Public Library.**



Budding film careers may have taken root Saturday when four films by students from Downers Grove North and South high schools hit the big screen at Tivoli Theatre. Three documentaries and a prequel film were featured as part of the Downers Grove Public Library Film Festival. Keep those cameras rolling.



# Ice Fest carves out some fun in Downers Grove

By **KELLI MURRAY**  
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**DOWNERS GROVE** - Downtown Downers Grove was a hub for frozen festivities this past weekend with Ice Fest 2015: Once Upon a Time.

Live ice sculpting demonstrations took place throughout the weekend along Main and Curtiss streets as ice sculptors used chainsaws on blocks of ice to create art depicting animals,

winter scenes and even characters from the Disney movie "Frozen."

A Ronald McDonald Magic Show entertained audiences Saturday at the Main Street train station, and First Congregational church provided a pancake breakfast for eventgoers.

The Downers Grove Library Film Festival at Tivoli Theatre offered a respite from the chill, with a free screening of documentaries created by Downers Grove high school students.

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