

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY October 10, 2018, 7 PM
SOUTHFIELD ROOM

Members Present: McCollough, Mancini, Rose, Selden, Haynes, Alyson Bettis (for Lowenberg)
Staff: Ewick Guests: Victor Bell

- I. CALL TO ORDER– **The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Pres. Rose.**
- II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - **Motion to accept the agenda as presented by McCollough. Support: Selman. Motion carried 4-0.**
- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - **Motion to accept the agenda as presented by McCollough. Support: Mancini. Motion carried 4-0.**
 - A. September 2018 Minutes
 - B. September 2018 Treasurer’s Report
 - C. Correspondence/Articles
- IV. FORMAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD – None received.
- V. REPORTS
 - A. Director’s Report – Ewick noted that three staff members (including himself) attended a workshop in East Lansing to further the Harwood training they’ve received. See attached report. He also noted that he will be meeting with Lathrup Village administration to explore the possibility of increasing the contract payment between the library and the village.

Personnel:

- Technology Systems Administrator – position will be posted soon.
- We have received approval from City Administrator Fred Zorn to reclassify two positions in the Tech division as the duties of the jobs have changed radically with the advances in the field. Will work with HR to get this done.
- We will replace two interns who completed their internship with us.
- We have scheduled Active Shooter training for Nov. 15-16

Building Projects: Projects in process at this time:

- Carpet – City Purchasing office is working on a Request for Bids. (LBA)
- Audio/Visual upgrade – 8 bidders showed up for a walk through, now we wait.
- Fire Panel – Contacted National Time & Signal to begin process.
- Roof Repairs – done
- Security Camera upgrade – to be paid through LBA, completed!
- Several door frames are in need of repair. Reviewing options.

Programming Report

Coming Attractions:

- Monster Mash Bash – Oct 22 from 5-7

- Memoirs of a Tuskegee Airman – Oct 10 at 7
- BeBop Breakout: Musical Escape Room – Oct 27 from 10-4 & Oct 28 from 1-4
- Libraries for Life: Organ Donor Signup – week of Oct 9-15
- Holistic Approach to Long Term Care – Oct 29 at 6:30
- Harpist Christa Grix – Oct 1 at 7:30
- Synthesizers in Library – Oct 3 at 6:30
- Jazz & Blues in Detroit's Paradise Valley – Oct 6 at 3
- Wayne State Electronic Music Ensemble – Oct 21 at 1:30
- Glittering Palaces of Detroit – Oct 24 at 6:30
- Creecy Book Club: The Scent of Color by Lana LaFortune – Oct 9 at 2 & Oct 10 at 7
- Urban Fiction Book Club –10/3, 11/7 at 7
- Story Time – continues on Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Manic Maker Mondays begin 9/24
- Chapter a Night – Nuts to You by Lynne Rae Perkins
- Financial classes with Vibe CU
- Tech Talk –10/10, 11/7 at 2 pm & on 10/24, 11/14 at 7 pm
- Internet Basics class – 10/16, 11/13 at 10 am
- Jazz & Blues with Ramona Collins Quartet – 10/17 at 6:30

Displays:

- Tower Lobby - Goodfellow Dolls by Beverly Tucker
- Circ. Lobby – Diary of a Graphic Designer by Eugenia Wigington
- Circ - Sanctuary: artwork by Lev Davidoff
- WOW Wall – Pottery Collection by Laurita Faison
- 2nd floor – Artworks by Ilham Badreddine Mahfouz
- History Room - Hats of Jean McDonnell

VI. BUSINESS

- A. Expansion of Operating Hours – Ewick shared that the management team is working diligently to present a slate of expanded hours that gives the best hours for public service and is able to be maintained with the current staffing level.

- B. African American collection discussion – Ewick summarized the situation as: The Adult Services Division created a new Fiction collection that separated out books designated as Urban Fiction and as African American. This resulted in some patron complaints. Two complainants attended the Sept. Board meeting to air their concerns that the separate collection constitutes segregation and unintended racism. One of the two also voiced a concern that because Southfield Public Library labels books by African American authors with a commercial label we are creating bias. The Board listened to the concerns, then heard from Adult Division staff about the situation. City Librarian Ewick was instructed to do more investigation and return with a recommendation at October's meeting.

Ewick reported that he has read many articles on the subject and has spoken with a number of his colleagues. The results were mixed both in print and in person. Almost all resources agree that having a separate collection created by an ethnic group is not

appropriate. Ewick recommends re-interfiling all the African American fiction back into the general collection.

The second point is less straightforward. Ewick found that many libraries create collections for large populations within their community. Most common are Latino and African American. Several libraries in the area have such collections while others see them as inappropriate.

The American Library Association has written on the subject. Ewick quoted <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/librarybill/interpretations/ga-labeling> (a Q&A section of the ALA website) *“When there is a large population of a specific ethnic or language group in an area, it often creates a large demand for items relevant to their experience in the library. To meet that demand and make it simpler for the users to locate those resources, libraries sometimes choose to create a special collection and/or area devoted to those resources. As long as these collections represent diverse points of view within the parameters of the collection and are designed to help patrons find resources relevant to their experience and not to restrict them to a certain section of the library, this practice would be acceptable.”* ALA April 6, 2006, Updated January 16, 2010.

EWICK’S RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Re-integrate the African American Fiction into the general collection, but keep the genre of Urban Fiction as a separate collection.
- Remove any remaining black dots from books by/about African Americans
- Write a policy for determining what materials will be contained within each fiction genre the library collects: currently Science Fiction, Mystery, Urban, Graphic Novels & African American.
- Continue to identify African American Fiction books with labels.

There was a good discussion of the situation for about 40 minutes, with all the options contemplated.

Motion by Mancini to: 1) Keep the Urban Fiction collection separate as a genre; 2) Re-integrate the African American Fiction into the general fiction collection; 3) Remove all remaining black dots; 4) Create a detailed collection development policy for each fiction genre; and 5) Remove all African American Fiction labels and stop using them in the future. Second by: McCollough. Motion carried 4-0.

- C. Acceptance of photograph donation – Gwendolyn Hampton has donated a photograph of the library that she had entered in the 2017 Calendar competition. Ewick asked that the Board formally accept the donation. **Motion to accept the donation of a poster sized photograph of the library from Gwendolyn Hampton by McCollough. Support: Mancini. Motion carried 4-0.**
- D. Photography policy (to be handed out) – Ewick asked that Board members review the policy for any issues and prepare to vote on the policy in November. **Mancini noted an addition that should be included for next month requiring parental permission before any photos are taken of minor children. She will send a sample form to Ewick.**
- E. Calendar change suggestion – President Rose had asked staff to look into the possibility of moving Board meetings to the 4th Wednesday of each month. Ewick

prepared a calendar for review. After discussion, there was a **Motion to accept the change of Board Meeting date for 2019 made by Selman. Support: McCollough. Motion carried 4-0.**

IX. COMMENTS

McCollough stated that the library needs to find ways to advocate for itself; to let the community know that the library is there to support and assist them...to “sing our own song”.

X. ADJOURNMENT – **The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 pm with a motion by McCollough. Support: Selman. Motion carried 4-0.**

Respectfully submitted by David Ewick, City Librarian.