

SOUTHFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY September 12, 2018, 7 PM
SOUTHFIELD ROOM

Members Present: McCollough, Mancini, Cohen, Haynes, Lowenberg
Staff: Ewick, Soderbloom, Cleary, Beall Guests: Victor Bell, Deborah Evans

- I. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 7:02 by VP McCollough.

- II. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA – **Motion to accept the agenda as presented by Cohen. Support: Mancini. Motion carried 3-0.**

- III. APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - **Motion to accept the consent agenda as presented by Cohen. Support: Mancini. Motion carried 3-0.**
 - A. August 2018 Minutes
 - B. August 2018 Treasurer’s Report
 - C. Correspondence/Articles

- IV. FORMAL REQUESTS TO ADDRESS THE BOARD
 - A. **Deborah Evans** – Ms. Evans addressed the board about the newly created African American (AA) fiction collection which has been separated out of the general fiction collection. She summarized her written concerns, which are included in **Appendix A** of these minutes. In her view, the creation of a new African American collection within the Adult Fiction collection does a disservice to the authors and works involved. The creation of a new genre “Urban Fiction” is amenable, but to include all AA works ‘*segregates*’ them by ethnicity and is undesirable. There were a few questions asked by the board to clarify Ms. Evans’ concerns. She requests that all AA books be reintegrated into the fiction collection.
 - B. **Victor Bell** – Mr. Bell echoed many of the concerns voiced by Ms. Evans. His letter of concern is attached to these minutes as **Appendix B**. Mr. Bell voiced the additional concern that he feels the use of labels on the AA works violates the ALA Freedom to Read statement; and creates bias within the individual viewing the label. He asked that AA books be reintegrated into the fiction collection and that all labels denoting the ethnicity of the author and/or content of the books be removed.

Staff members were then given the opportunity to speak with the board on the subject.

Adult Division Coordinator **Betsy Soderbloom** told how & why the decision to create the collection came about. Historically, staff has been asked repeatedly by patrons to create such a collection to make finding such works easier, and so it was done. The

labeling has been done for over 20 years, beginning with identifying dots and more recently with African American labels from a vendor. She stressed that the creation of this collection was in response to patron requests. Her written information is contained in **Appendix C**.

Adult Librarian Jesse Cleary also spoke about how previous libraries for which he has worked have successfully created such collections and seen circulation rates rise.

The board thanked all the speakers and told them that a response would be given to all of them after deliberation and discussion of the issues.

V. REPORTS

- A. Director's Report – Ewick noted that much of the roof will need to be replaced in the next 4-6 years, with an estimated cost of \$250,000. With dwindling external funds, he will be examining additional sources of revenue. Mr. Lowenberg suggested a focus on increasing the amount paid by Lathrup Village. They are paying 1 mill, whereas Southfield residents pay 2.8 mills. If the amounts were the same, there would be an increase of almost \$200,000 per annum. Ewick will speak with Lathrup's Mayor about how to proceed. Mr. Cohen asked about the feasibility of a regional income tax, but Mr. Lowenberg felt that would be a difficult task.

Ewick also presented for review a draft email to be sent to City Officials about the Library's planned expansion of hours. Mr. Cohen noted that the Orthodox Jewish community would be better served if the library were open on Thursday nights. Ewick will review with the management team and bring a revised draft next month.

Personnel:

- Our new librarians are all working out splendidly
- Technology Systems Administrator – position has not been posted
- We are trying to reclassify two positions in the Tech division as the duties of the jobs have changed radically with the advances in the field

Building Projects: Projects in process at this time:

- Carpet – City Purchasing office is working on a Request for Bids. (LBA)
- Audio/Visual upgrade – City Purchasing office is working on a Request for Bids
- Fire Panel – Contacted National Time & Signal to begin process.
- Roof Repairs – coming before fall, cost is approximately \$2,000
- Security Camera upgrade – to be paid through LBA, in process
- Plumbing upgrade – hope to install touchless toilets/sinks – in process

Programming Report

Coming Attractions:

- Urban Fiction Book Club – 9/5, 10/3, 11/7 at 7
- Story Time – continues on Tuesdays & Thursdays
- Manic Maker Mondays begin 9/24

- Chapter a Night
- Teens are joining the Harry Potter Alliance
- Financial classes with Vibe CU
- Millennial Jeopardy – 9/10 at 7 (all ages)
- 46th Dist. Court candidate forum – 9/17 at 7
- Telling your story writing workshop – 9/17 at 7
- Talk Like a Pirate Day is 9/19 – celebration at 4:30
- Know Your Muslim Neighbors – 9/23 at 1:30
- Self-Publishing 101 – 9/24 at 7
- Recruiting – 9/12 at 6
- Fake News with WDET – 9/26 at 6:30
- Salsa with Mambo Marci – 9/9 at 3
- Anxiety discussion – 9/15 at 1
- Tech Talk – 9/5, 10/10, 11/7 at 2 pm AND 9/19, 10/24, 11/14 at 7 pm
- Google Docs class – 9/5 at 3
- Internet Basics class – 9/11, 10/16, 11/13 at 10 am
- Jazz & Blues with Kenny Parker Band – 9/19 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 – Wizard of Oz by Barb Klimkowski & Alan Tobeaux
- 2nd floor - The Waiting Room by Melissa Parks
- History Room - Hats of Jean McDonnell

VI. BUSINESS

- A. Approval of 2019 Library Board Calendar – **Motion by Cohen to accept the calendar as presented with the following changes: Moving the Oct. 9 meeting to Oct. 2. Support: Mancini. Carried 3-0.**
- B. Review of Council Informational Packet – Ewick provided updates for the packet: a clearer version of the Charter info on the library and a more complete list of building repairs. He was instructed to make the dates of completion more prominent on the list of building repairs.
- C. MLA Conference Oct. 17-19 in Novi – Dr. McCollough expressed interest in attending.

IX. COMMENTS

- a. Mr. Cohen noted that the parking lot was full and asked if the City is considering expansion of parking lots. Ewick will investigate.
- b. Ewick shared an additional article: “To Restore Civil Society, Start with the Library”.
- c. Ewick presented a draft form for requesting to speak at a board meeting for review.

X. ADJOURNMENT – **Motion to adjourn at 8:38 by Cohen. Support: Mancini. Carried 3-0.**

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10, 2018 at 7pm.