

**CITY OF NORWALK / NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS / REGULAR MEETING / FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

**ATTENDANCE:** Stan Siegel, President; Mohan Tracy; Charles McMullen;  
Grace Vetter; Mary Mann; Mary Pugh;  
Jannie Williams (7:04 p.m.); Lori Torrano (7:04 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Les Kozerowitz, Library Director; Frank Ferro, Assistant Library Director

**ABSENT:** Regina Krummel

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Siegel called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments this evening.

**ADDITIONS TO AGENDA/ACTION ITEMS**

There were no additions to the agenda or action items this evening.

**APPROVAL ON MINUTES** – January 22, 2009

Mr. Siegel commented that the minutes used to be carried on the City of Norwalk's website. He said that has changed; the minutes are now posted by the Board, through Mr. Kozerowitz, on the City's website.

**\*\* MS. TRACY MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED  
\*\* MR. MCMULLEN SECONDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. PUGH)**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Mr. Siegel reported that he is working with Isabel Bullen to create a display of pictures about the history Norwalk Library. The pictures will be on display during the month of March.

Ms. Williams joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Mr. Siegel said that a hand-out describing the display will be underwritten by the Connecticut Library Association Board. Mr. Siegel said that he assisted in creating a document, "Why the Library; Why Now" which was given to our Legislators. The President of the Connecticut Library Association made a presentation to the Legislators last night about the state of the libraries. Mr. Siegel said that he will get a copy of the report and will provide it to Board members.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

There was no report this evening. Mr. Siegel said that this meeting will have to focus on what the Library will do with regard to the City's budget.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### A. OVERALL CITY-MANDATED "BUDGET CUT" RAMIFICATIONS

Mr. Kozerowitz said that what has happened in the last month has been eclipsed by the budget. They are currently sustaining a cut of \$120,000. He presented next year's cuts that were presented by Mayor Moccia at a meeting held last week. He said that regular wages were cut by \$212,000 by defunding three positions. Those positions are: the Library Clerk, Assistant Library Director and the Circulation Coordinator. He said that over time wages were cut by close to \$48,000. In addition, \$22,000 was cut from the part time wages which equates to two part time positions, the South Norwalk Children's Librarian and the Circulation Clerk in this building.

Electric, telephone and the heating budget was reduced to reflect actual usage. Professional services were cut along with business expenses, seminars, office supplies, clothing and uniforms. The book budget was cut by \$7,400 and the fuel budget was cut to reflect the lower rates.

Mr. Kozerowitz said that as part of what the City is undergoing to reduce the bottom line, they decided to offer an early retirement package, which has to be approved by the Common Council. This package affects eight Library employees including Mr. Ferro and himself. He said that it is clear that they have to live with the Finance Director's recommendation, but believes they can make internal adjustments.

**\*\* MS. VETTER MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING PERSONNEL ISSUES WITH STAFF**

**\*\* MS. TRACY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Board and Staff went into Executive Session at 7:25 p.m.

**\*\* MS. VETTER MOVED TO COME OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 8:00 P.M.**

**\*\* MS. TRACY SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Torrano joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**\*\* MR. MCMULLEN MOVED TO SUPPORT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE LIBRARY DIRECTOR TO DE-FUND THE POSITION OF BRANCH MANAGER IN ORDER TO FUND THE POSITION OF THE ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR**

**\*\* MS. VETTER SECONDED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Kozerowitz will contact Mr. Hamilton to let him know that he has been directed by the Board to bring that recommendation forward.

### OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Ms. Pugh asked about signage pointing to the Library. Mr. Siegel said that he has been working on this with the Connecticut State Library for the last two and a half years.

Mr. Siegel announced that Ms. Williams had donated a set of books to the South Norwalk Library; however they “disappeared” between this location and South Norwalk. He said that the Library was going to replace the books, but Ms. Williams made a donation to pay for the replacement of those books.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. MCMULLEN MOVED TO ADJOURN**  
**\*\* MS. MANN SECONDED**  
**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Recording Secretary

