

**CITY OF NORWALK / NORWALK PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
REGULAR MEETING / APRIL 16, 2009 / 7 PM / BOARD ROOM**

**ATTENDANCE:** Stan Siegel, President; Mary Mann, Vice President; Grace Vetter, Secretary; Regina Krummel, Treasurer; Mohan Tracy; Charles McMullen; Mary Pugh; Jannie Williams.

**STAFF:** Les Kozerowitz, Library Director;

**OTHER:** Ms. Joan Joakim, Ms. Andrea Light

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Siegel called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Joan Joakim read her letter to the editor that will be given to the local newspapers. She restated her concerns relative to the defunding of the Assistant Librarian position of the South Norwalk Library. She is concerned that downsizing the staff would do a disservice to the many positive programs that exist. The current librarian is a wonderful dedicated, professional who has served the South Norwalk residents and especially the Haitian community, in an extraordinary capacity. She offered areas of alternatives to the position defunding, including soliciting more involvement from the Friends of the Norwalk Library and recruiting more volunteers, along with other suggestions to cut back costs and programs rather than staff. In summary, Ms. Joakim asked the Board of Directors to allow the South Norwalk Library to return to normal and remain a fully functioning service to the South Norwalk Community. These actions of cutting positions are deplorable and will have such a tremendously negative impact on the residents of South Norwalk.

Andrea Light, Member of the Friends of the Norwalk Library Board and daughter of Ms. Joakim, thanked the Board for the opportunity to state in person the message she sent last month by e-mail. She again urged the Board to not eliminate Reggie St. Fort's position because of the valuable interface service that he provides. She urges the Board to again make a plea to the Common Council to reconsider the defunding of positions.

There were no other public comments.

Mr. Siegel took a moment of presidential privilege to respond to the public comments and stated that many of the viewpoints were not accurate. The Board of Estimate and Taxation has already made their decision and at this point the Library Board can take no further action, as it is out of our hands. He also stated that a plan of transition is under way and Frank Ferro is working on creative ways to keep the management of the Library in order.

ADDITIONS TO AGENDA / ACTION ITEMS

There were no additions to the agenda or action items.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM MARCH 12, 2009 MEETING

The following corrections were noted:

- Pg. 2, last paragraph, second sentence should read “The scenarios being that the Assistant Library Director’s position had been defunded...”
- Page 3 under Library Director’s Report, Point 1 should read...Ms. Tracy, whose wife has written a book, had attended the grand opening of the “new” Library...
- Point 3 should read “Mr. Dave Genovese of Baywater Properties, has donated \$4,000 in behalf of Sherrelle Harris’s efforts...”

**\*\* MR MCMULLEN MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING AS AMENDED.**

**\*\* MS. PUGH SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### PRESIDENT’S REPORT

#### A. Nominating Committee

Mr. Siegel stated that a Nominating Committee needs to be formed to bring a slate to the May meeting for review prior to the vote schedule in June. He asked the following members that are not currently officers to be on this committee, and reminded them that have the acceptance of the nominee prepared to fill every office, and there are no specific terms or limits to the number of times an officer can be re-elected to an officer position:

#### Nominating Committee

Mohan Tracy, Chair; Charles McMullen, Mary Pugh, Jannie Williams; Lori Torrano

#### B. Other

Mr. Siegel reported that Frank Ferro was not in attendance since we had changed the date from the original as scheduled, due to a prior commitment he had made in advance during the school vacation week. He also stated that there was a lot going on including a staff luncheon to honor those who were retiring as of 04/30/09, which the board was all invited to attend. That morning there will be a full staff meeting planned to discuss the plan of transition to keep the staff involved with the management of the Library during this time of many staff changes.

Ms. Vetter added that she liked Mr. Ferro’s letter that has run in the newspaper. Ms. Krummel shared a conversation she had with Mayor Moccia and stated that the Mayor had asked how the search for an Assistant Librarian was going. Mr. Siegel clarified that the Mayor was probably trying to indicate that we was aware of the upcoming search, but that the Board has to wait for the “dust to settle” and the job has to first be posted by Mr. Haselkamp in Personnel. Ms. Pugh asked for the specifications of the job, and Mr. Siegel responded that he would e-mail them to the Board members. Ms. Vetter asked for the timing of the posting, and Mr. Siegel answered most likely May 1st. He added that the process is that the job has to be posted, and the City will then advertise in Library Journals, and in Library Association websites and the Board, as well, could solicit applicants for consideration..

### TREASURER’S REPORT

There was no Treasurer’s Report for this meeting.

## LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Kozerowitz reported that of the eight staff members offered the Early Retirement Package, the following five employees have accepted:

<u>Library Staff to Retire 5/1/09</u>	<u>Date of Service</u>
James Dombroski –	8/11/87
Paul Keroack	9/5/97
Les Kozerowitz	8/10/87
Nolita Magnaye	6/30/80
Ann Tomlinson	2/9/88

### OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Siegel gave an update on the “2009 Big Read” program which has been very successful so far and has generated a great deal of positive publicity for the Library. . He provided a calendar of events from April to June listing the schedule of special programs centered on the “Tom Sawyer” movies and book club discussions

Mrs. Krummel asked if a correction could be made to Saturday, 4/18 to change “Junp” to “Jump for Joy” and Mr. Siegel said he would be sure to have that corrected.

#### B) Technology Budget

Mr. Siegel submitted copies of an e-mail outlining the approved items in the Capital Budget to include III Server Replacement of \$23,700 and PC Replacements of \$16,320.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### a) Retiring Staff Luncheon

Mr. Siegel stated that the luncheon is April 22, and the Library would be closed until 2:00 p.m. to allow for the staff members to attend. He encouraged the Board Members to attend and added that he would have a certificate prepared to acknowledge the service by those staff members who are retiring.

There was no other new business to report on at this time.

### ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* MS. PUGH MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- \*\* MR. MCMULLEN SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – subject to Board approval.