

Proposed Minutes
Library Board
Wednesday, July 18, 2007
7 p.m.
City Hall Council Chambers

I. Roll Call – Soules called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

PRESENT: Melissa Barnard, Maxine Brink, Sarah Galt,
Kathleen Kinnish, Norm Neher, Marilyn Soules, Judy Stein

ALSO PRESENT: Virginia McKane; John Palen, *Midland Issues*

ABSENT: Stu Bush

II. Welcome New Board Member

Soules welcomed new Midland Public Schools Representative, Norm Neher. Soules thanked Stein and Brink for their last two years of leadership as Chair and Vice-chair.

III. Acceptance of June 20, 2007 Meeting Minutes

Minutes approved as submitted.

Soules clarified that although the library was participating in the Great Michigan Read, the One Book One Community program has not been eliminated.

IV. Additions or Changes to the Agenda

None

V. Public Comments

None

VI. Director's Report

In addition to information provided in the written report, Barnard handed out a brochure on the Playaways that will be placed into circulation in August. The library will be selling accessories for the Playaways: ear buds, batteries and lanyards. Soules inquired about the durability of the Playaways. The company guarantees them for a year. Other libraries circulating them have had favorable experiences.

Soules inquired about the laptops for in-library use. Barnard explained that the laptops were approved for purchase in this current fiscal year and the Information Services Department has begun the purchasing process.

Stein complimented the staff on the new computer furniture in Youth Services that better accommodates children.

Galt inquired about the Annual Library Conference. Barnard related that the main focus of the exhibits and the meetings was on technology. Information was available on new databases and products. Programs featuring authors are also offered.

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Galt suggested that emphasis be placed on the accuracy and reliability of the databases offered through the library. Neher noted that students view Google as the main source for information and it is difficult to get them to use databases.

Stein asked about the Great Michigan Read program and the library's involvement. Barnard responded that the library is collaborating with the Midland County History Center. The History Center will host a traveling Hemingway exhibit. Copies of the book will be available for check out beginning on September 17. Other related programs are being scheduled: author Gloria Whelan who has written a youth fiction book on Hemingway will be speaking and the producer of the documentary "Up North with the Hemingway's" will discuss the making of the film after the showing. There are a total of 113 libraries participating in the program that will run from July 2007 through June 2008. The program is sponsored by the Michigan Humanities Council.

Soules reminded viewers that the library would be closed Wednesday, August 29 for a staff in-service day.

VII. Patron Compliments and Concerns. Signed Compliments and Concerns:

1. I am writing to thank you for providing Lare Williams Bluegrass Concert and ice cream on Friday, June 29. My friend and I had a wonderful time. Thank you for doing this for the community.
2. Thank you for providing MEL for our library. We didn't have a CD at GAD and it also was not available from our Co-op libraries, but I was able to get it through MEL. Delivered from West Bloomfield Library for only .25 and my library card. Our library is awesome!
3. A book hunt where you keep the books you find.
The Friends of the Library provide a free book to children and teens completing the Summer Reading Program.
4. Get more updated Midland Government stuff.
The Government Information Center is updated regularly with agendas, minutes, and reports from City Council, and City Boards and Commissions.
5. Please put "No Cell Phone Usage" signs on the brick pillars by the study carols along the back window. It is REALLY rude how much people talk there, especially on cell phones with full voices.
Signs are not very effective in changing behaviors. Please report problems to the public service desk.
6. Please keep the snack bar open longer for the people who come in late. We who stay late would like to get snacks just as everyone else would. What about the people who are hypoglycemic?
Decisions on hours for the coffee bar are made by the Arnold Center who manages the operation. Current hours were determined by sales over a

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period of time. People with medical conditions should carry necessary supplies with them.

Unsigned Compliments and Concerns:

1. E-mail reminders of short term items like videos is not useful.
The response to this service has been very favorable. Since the service has just been instituted, no changes are being recommended at this time.
2. How can it take FOREVER to do restroom work?
Unanticipated issues with construction and availability of fixtures have unavoidably delayed the completion.

VIII. Old Business

- a. Board/Community Communications
Soules is considering highlighting information resources about colleges and financial aid for the November/December Library Connection issue.
- b. Board Annual Report Committee – Bush, Heard, Kinnish
2007-2008 Goal Development
The Board reviewed the draft goals for 2007-2008. The revised draft goals for the 2007-2008 year are:
 1. Collaborate with staff to address revisions in the fines and fees ordinance resulting in a recommended revised ordinance to City Council in November 2007. The Library Board will hold a public hearing at their October 17th meeting.
 2. Monitor the library's performance through library statistics, the Director's Report to the Board and patron feedback to provide recommendations on the future direction of the Grace A. Dow Memorial Library.
 3. Suggest innovative marketing strategies to communicate library services and programs to the community.
 4. Suggest new opportunities for library collaborations with community organizations.
 5. Seek dialog/feedback from the community to determine needs through solicited comments.

Discussion on the goals will continue at next meeting on September 19, 2007.

IX. New Business

Meeting Schedule 2008

Brink moved that the Board meet the third Wednesday of each month except for July and December 2008. Neher seconded the motion. The motion passed.

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X. Board Comments

Stein highlighted the bookmarks included in the Board packet. One thanked the Friends of the Library for their support of library programs. The others were a series on Internet safety for children, teens and parents. The bookmarks are available in the library. Neher was interested in making the Internet safety bookmarks available to students. Barnard will work with Neher on this.

Stein commented that the re-designed website is nicely done.

XI. Adjournment

Brink moved and Kinnish seconded to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Library Board is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19 at 7 p.m. in Council Chambers at City Hall.