

**MINUTES OF
HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
November 30, 2011**

The Hennepin County Library Board met Wed., Nov. 30, 2011 at Ridgedale Library.

Present: Rebekah Anderson, Caitlin Cahill, Chris Damsgard, Sandy Johnson, Jill Joseph, Claudia Kelly, Kathleen Lamb, Jane Shanard, Gary Thaden, Thérèse VanBlarcom, and NuRocha Williams

Hennepin Bill Berg, Sharon Charles, Tonya Depriest, Commissioner Gail Dorfman, Judith Friedrich, Walt Johnson, Kelli Koob, Lois Lenroot-Ernt,

County Staff: Michele McGraw, Janet Mills, Nancy Palmer, Bill Rodgers, Andrea Stelljes, Lois Langer Thompson, Ali Turner, Ardis Wiley, and Marilyn Zastrow
Public:

CALL TO ORDER

Library Board President Thérèse VanBlarcom called the Hennepin County Library Board meeting of Nov. 30, 2011 to order at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed attendees.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jill Joseph made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by NuRocha Williams. Motion passed.

CONSENT ITEMS

Jill Joseph made a motion to approve the consent agenda with one amendment to the meeting minutes of Oct. 26, 2011, noting that Mr. Thaden opposed passing the Data Privacy Policy. Claudia Kelly seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT None

PROGRAM REPORT

• Senior Librarian Helen Burke, Government Documents update

Ms. Burke provided an overview of Business, Science & Government Documents. Hennepin County Library is a Federal Depository Library (FDL), 1893-date; a Patent & Trademark Resource Center (PTRC), 1980-date, a MN Depository, 1963-date; eDocuments from 2003 forward; and Metropolitan Council depository, 1967 to date; eDocuments from 2003 forward. In 2010, the Public Printer appointed Ms. Burke as one of 15 members of the Depository Library Council. Due to her appointment, HCL is one of two public libraries in the country represented on Council.

HCL offers public review documents for citizen engagement including:

- Federal level: EPA Superfund sites, e.g. 27th St. & Hiawatha
- State level: MN Environmental Quality Board, e.g. 35W bridge collapse
- MN Public Utilities Commission, e.g. proposed Hiawatha Transmission Line
- Regional, County and City levels: Met Council, e.g. Central Corridor Light Rail Line (1980-date), Hennepin County, Urban Ballpark (aka Target Field), City of Minneapolis, *Mpls Plan for Sustainable Growth*

Government documents come in a variety of formats, mostly print and over 98% electronic. The print collection dates back to the Continental Congress of 1777, and MN territorial days in 1849.

Some of the current outreach efforts include: History Day collaboration with MN Historical Society and MN middle schools, which is ideal because all government documents are primary sources including the *Journal of Continental Congress*; monthly patent talks; and a program offered quarterly on the traps and pitfalls in intellectual property. A future trend is historical print documents will be digitized. Digital repositories will be coordinated and preservation standards will emerge for both older print and newly issued "born digital" documents. The Library Board thanked Ms. Burke for her presentation and opened it for questions and discussion.

HENNEPIN COUNTY BOARD

• Hennepin County Commissioner Gail Dorfman

As commissioner for the Third District, Commissioner Dorfman serves south and west Minneapolis and St. Louis Park areas, which includes the following libraries: Linden Hills, St. Louis Park, Walker, and Washburn.

Commissioner Dorfman congratulated Library Director Thompson on receiving the 2011 County Attorney's Office Community Leadership award today which was started by Amy Klobuchar and that she was recognized as director of the Library system in regards to eLibrary, early literacy, truancy, Outreach, A-GRAD, Homework Hub, and partnering with the Adult Corrections Facility. She recalled participating in the "Read to Me" program at the Hennepin County Adult Correctional Facility and she is always thinking of other ways that the library can collaborate with other County Departments.

She suggested that Human Services staff could, on a regular basis, partner with Minneapolis Central Library staff to provide services for adults who are homeless; connecting them to housing, employment, and food. She also acknowledged there's a huge disparity for

children being ready for Kindergarten in non-licensed home daycare settings. The Library use to have the Readmobile that provided some of those services in the community and it would be great to have librarians connecting, on a voluntary basis, with non-licensed home daycares to encourage the providers to bring library resources to the children they are serving.

Commissioner Dorfman thanked Library Director Thompson for serving on the steering committee and the library for being involved in the One Minneapolis, One Read event with the reading of Michele Norris' book, *The Grace of Silence*. On the library's homepage, visitors are invited to tell their family history. Minneapolis Central Library has a special display in the atrium of African American history and genealogy sources that are available in the library; Sumner is hosting special events on Black genealogy and family trees, and book clubs at Franklin Library. Hosmer and East Lake libraries are reading the book together and hosting discussions.

The County Board approved the schematic design for the Walker Library yesterday. There has been a focus to have the Community Advisory Group involved from day one in talking about location, design, collection, programming and every other aspect. She acknowledged that Gary Thaden served on the Community Advisory Group. At the open house, Vincent James and Associates Architects took the vision that was developed by the Advisory Committee and put it into a schematic design to reflect the principles that were embedded in that vision, and the response was, "wow, this is really great!" It will be connected to the Midtown Greenway. She encouraged the Library Board to get involved and to take periodic looks to weigh in on what is progressing. Construction will start in the spring and it's anticipated to open in early first quarter 2014.

Commissioner Dorfman noted that the county budget was in final discussion today and that they were able to reduce the property tax levy and continue to fund programs and new construction for libraries. The collection budget was reduced for 2012, but library hours remained the same and continued new projects. She complimented the Library staff for identifying reasonable choices for budget reductions. She announced the Project Homeless Connect (PHC) event to connect families and single adults with service providers which is held twice a year and the next one is Dec. 12 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. She thanked the Board for their passionate service and for attending the budget presentation in support of the director.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

• County update

Library Director Thompson communicated the Athenaeum agreement was passed by the County Board. The county has an eGovernment steering committee that Library Director Thompson is serving on.

• Capital Projects

As Commissioner Dorfman mentioned, Walker's schematic design was approved as well as Roosevelt Library. At the open house for the Roosevelt schematic design it was well received by the community. The Library is going to pilot checking out laptops for use in the building to maximize the limited space in the Roosevelt Library. There will also be beautiful window seats for patrons to read and use laptops.

• Operating Budget

The Board presentation on the budget went well and Library Director Thompson thanked those who attended. The final vote is Dec. 13. Due to the 25 percent budget cut, the new circulation limits have been announced and any patron who contacts the library is receiving a phone call from staff. Library Board members requested standard talking points, regarding the new circulation limits for a better understanding and to answer patron concerns. Ms. Kelly requested instructions on the website directing patrons how to use "My List" to help manage their requests. President VanBlarcom thanked Ali Turner for her great responses to patrons. Kelli Koob is beginning work on the of 2013 budget.

• Community

Library Director Thompson attended the Webber Park and Rockford Road Friends meetings. Both Friends groups made generous donations to the collection drive, which was appreciated. She attended the Golden Valley Rotary, did a Comcast interview on the One Minneapolis. One Read, met the new director for the Ridgedale YMCA, and visited the Textile Center of MN. The Center, located in Southeast Minneapolis has a beautiful shop and a library with about 23,000 items. The Center and the Library will now provide links to each other's websites. Library Board members asked questions and it opened for discussion. Ms. Shanard requested statistical data for annual volunteer hours which will be out in early 2012. Mr. Damsgard raised a concern regarding the programming pause in January, which was a result of budget considerations regarding what hours the library would be open.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

• *2012 Work Plan and Meeting Dates/Locations

President VanBlarcom presented the 2012 Library Board meeting schedule and work plan. Ms. Johnson recommended meeting at two additional libraries; North Regional and East Lake. Discussion concluded that East Lake Library does not have a meeting room. Kathleen Lamb made a motion to approve the 2012 Meeting Dates/Locations subject to checking to see if North Regional Library was available for one of the meetings. Motion was seconded by Sandy Johnson. Motion passed;

The Library Board Strategic Plan, objectives and strategies focuses on the need to tell the story of the libraries from the Board perspective and engage with communities. President VanBlarcom, Vice President Jill Joseph, Secretary Gary Thaden and Library Director Thompson are planning to meet with County Board Chair Opat after the first of the year to ensure the Library Board is supportive of what the County Board is doing and to have a better understanding of the budget situation. Library Director Thompson said that staff will be putting together a year in review and will share it with the County Board as well.

As Commissioner Dorfman mentioned earlier, Library Director Thompson was honored on behalf of HCL at the County Attorney's Community Leadership awards which was the 11th year. She received a beautiful plaque and was introduced very nicely by Attorney Chuck Salter, who represents the library. He reminded President VanBlarcom that in 2004 Library Director Thompson was named a Mover and Shaker and congratulated her on receiving the award.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

**• Acknowledgement of Commissioned Public Art: Sandy Johnson
Resolution to accept Public Art at Plymouth Library**

WHEREAS, the Hennepin County Library Board Commissioned Public Art Policy states, "Once the commissioned public art is installed, the Library Board will take formal action to acknowledge and receive it;"

WHEREAS, a piece of commissioned art selected by the Plymouth Art Selection Committee was installed at the Plymouth Library on October, 2011; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Library Board gratefully acknowledge and receive the *Elements of Harmony* by Joan Solomon

Sandy Johnson made a motion to accept the public art at Plymouth Library. Motion was seconded by Jill Joseph. Motion passed; recorded voting on Wed., November 30, 2011.

Hennepin County Library Board	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Rebekah Anderson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Caitlin Cahill	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Chris Damsgard	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Sandy Johnson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Jill Joseph	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Claudia Kelly	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Kathleen Lamb	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Jane Shanard	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Gary Thaden	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
Thérèse VanBlarcom	<u>X</u>	_____	_____
NuRocha Williams	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

President VanBlarcom thanked Ms. Johnson for serving on the art committee.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

• *Approval of LB2: Data Privacy Policy

Ms. Kelly pointed out that the review plan for the policy committee shows what the committee has accomplished this year. This Board has approved the Fee and Fine Policy, the Collection Development and Management policy, and the Donation Policy. We only have a handful left that have not been taken up since the merger.

Thérèse VanBlarcom made a motion to approve the Data Privacy Policy. Motion was seconded by Rebekah Anderson. Mr. Thaden expressed his concerns in regards to this policy and discussion followed. Motion passed; Recorded voting on Wed., November 30, 2011.

Hennepin County Library Board	<u>YEA</u>	<u>NAY</u>	<u>OTHER</u>
Rebekah Anderson	<u>X</u>	_____	_____

Caitlin Cahill	<u>X</u>	---	---
Chris Damsgard	<u>X</u>	---	---
Sandy Johnson	<u>X</u>	---	---
Jill Joseph	<u>X</u>	---	---
Claudia Kelly	<u>X</u>	---	---
Kathleen Lamb	---	<u>X</u>	---
Jane Shanard	<u>X</u>	---	---
Gary Thaden	---	<u>X</u>	---
Thérèse VanBlarcom	<u>X</u>	---	---
NuRocha Williams	<u>X</u>	---	---

NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Thaden recently traveled to New Orleans and visited the Central Library there. Library Director Thompson added that Charles Brown, who was a former HCL director, has accepted the position as director for the New Orleans Public Library and we wish him well.
- Ms. Cahill attended the National Conference of the American Association of School Librarians. The opening speaker wrote the book *The Shallows: what the Internet is doing to our brain*. He focused on how technology and the content are changing our ways of thinking and physiologically how our brain is changing. To counter that, the closing speaker was, Dr. Mimi Ito who spoke about how technology itself is neutral and it's what we do with it that affects our lives. Ito had focused on the 3 year MacArthur Foundation that funded the digital media program in Chicago, which we are currently looking at for Brooklyn Park, and the students are engaged and excited and that's all they wanted to do when they got home from school was to do photography and videos. The video part of the "one conference, one movie" was, "Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century". It was interesting to hear Dr. Mimi Ito talk about how the Internet and technology is allowing teenagers to take a passion and pursue it in self directed learning. [Digital Media: New Learners of the 21st Century](#) (full video available) [Turning the Page by the Public Library Association](#)
- Library Director Thompson said a group is going to Chicago in December from the capital projects and Maureen Hartman, who is our Youth and Literacy Learning Coordinating Librarian, to experience and talk to library staff there.
- Ms. Cahill will be taking the "Turning the Page Advocacy" program by the Public Libraries Association funded by the Gates Foundation, about how to become a better advocate for your library. There are interactive modules where once a week you attend a virtual meeting with other participants from around the country. At the last meeting they talked about misconceptions regarding advocating for your library and they noted that support for your library is not necessarily tied to library visits. The people who visit the library the most are not necessarily those who financially support it and vice versa. They spoke to our need to diversify and speak about the library elsewhere, not just at the library. It was also interesting to note that people see libraries as places with information, but what they want to hear is how libraries are transforming the lives of people.
- President VanBlarcom mentioned the, GiveMN, Give to the Max Day and the Friends of HCL raised, nearly \$50,000 in donations plus \$25,000 match - so that's pretty terrific!

ADJOURN

There being no further business, Kathleen Lamb made a motion to adjourn the Library Board meeting at 6:30 p.m. which was seconded by Jane Shanard. The motion passed. The next Library Board meeting is Jan. 18, 2012, Rockford Road Library, 6401 42nd Ave. N., Crystal 55427

Gary Thaden, Secretary