

Regular Monthly Meeting
Royal Oak Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes of April 22, 2008

Trustees present: Dave Palmer, President; Christopher Ahn, Vice President; Nancy Hollyer, Secretary and Trustees Ronald Halstead, Frank Houston, Joan Koelsch and Kenneth Rosen, Amy Schell and Lauren Wolfe.

Trustees Absent with Notice: None

Also present: Director Metta T. Lansdale, Jr.

Guests Present: Library Technology Coordinator, Eric Hayes; Mayor of the City of Royal Oak, Jim Ellison; Mary Karshner, Lori Boden, and Anna Vidal

I. Call to Order

President David Palmer called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. Welcome new Trustees / Administer Oath of Office

President David Palmer administered the oath of office to the newest trustees, Lauren Wolfe and Frank Houston and welcomed them and returning trustee Joan Koelsch to the Royal Oak Public Library Board of Trustees.

III. Announcements/Communications

- a) Roster for Review: The roster was reviewed, corrections made.
- b) Trustee Contact Information: Trustees directed that the Library website should provide shielded e-mail contact but not telephone contact in the Board roster.
- c) National Library Week Proclamation: the Director presented the National Library Week proclamation from State Representative Marie Donigan.

IV. Public Comment

Rick Wallace presented his observations that the filtering issue reflected concerns about the relationship between the Library Board and the City Commission as well as concerns about filtering per se.

V. Agenda Approval

The Agenda was accepted as distributed.

VI. Minutes Approval

The minutes for the February 26, 2008 Regular Meeting and the March 5, 2008 Special Meeting were accepted as distributed.

VII. Financial Statements - March

The Library Director explained that the Finance Department was not able to provide a financial report for the month of April by Friday morning for inclusion in the packet. Trustees expressed concerns for ability to track financial performance as well as to prepare a budget without financial reports.

VIII. Director Report

The director highlighted the printed report:

- Trustees are asked for recommendations for Strategic Planning Steering Committee. Ken Rosen and the Director will recommend a committee with this input.

- An initial budget for FY 2009 has been submitted with a Director's Narrative.

IX. Filtering Question: Should filters be imposed on computers used by adults in the Royal Oak Public Library?

- a) The Board President polled the Library Trustees to determine where they stand now, individually.
- All were personally opposed to extending filters to the adults-only computers. There was also consensus that the library should have the ability to release a filter on request.
 - Many trustees stated they were interested in exploring a compromise with the City Commission but none had any suggestions for what compromise might be successful.
 - Several stated that they had personally spoken about the issue to many people in the community and stated frankly that they were hard-pressed to find residents who were in favor of extending filtering to the adults-only machines.
 - One expressed concern for public safety and workplace safety but felt filters would not be an effective solution.
 - Several identified the need for better communication with the city commissioners – perhaps in one-on-one conversations. Communications with city commissioners should include preparation of a packet of information that collates the research completed to date.
 - Some wanted to explore the influence of the group from Midland regarding this issue.
 - Some expressed sensitivity to the idea that the city commission would override the action of the Library Board on this issue.
- b) The Board President resurrected the Internet Access Committee and appointed membership:
- Ken Rosen, Chair
 - Frank Houston
 - Chris Ahn
 - Amy Schell
 - Staff to be assigned by the Director (Eric Hayes, Anna Vidal)
 - Library Director
 - City Commission Representative – all will be invited to participate

X. Committee Reports

- a) Budget Committee will schedule a meeting in the next two weeks to finalize the recommendation to the City Commission.
- b) Strategic Planning – Ken Rosen and the Director will construct a steering committee for recommendation to the board.
- c) Renovation Committee – the committee will have one final meeting and report next month.
- d) Acorn Foundation – a grant proposal has been in preparation for two years and is near finalization.
- e) Fundraising/Recognition – has not met
- f) Friends – J. Koelsch reported the shop is successful. Ms Arendsen asked the Friends to review movies shown in the Library; the Friends referred her to the Library Board to address her concerns.

XI. Action Items

- a) Public Relations Policy
A MOTION by F. Houston to adopt the new Public Relations Policy 6.10 as distributed was Seconded by C. Ahn.

A MOTION by K. Rosen to insert the phrase “as to adopted programs, policies, and services” was Seconded by R. Halstead. The amendment to the motion carried Unanimously.

The original motion as amended carried unanimously.

b) Library Board Meetings Policy

A MOTION by K. Rosen to adopt the new Library Board Meetings Policy 1.40 as distributed was Seconded by R. Halstead. The motion carried Unanimously.

XII. Discussion

5.40 Internet Access Policy, 3.30 Code of Conduct , 3.10 Meeting Rooms, 3.20 Literature Racks and Postings, 3.21 Displays and Exhibits and 3.40 Unattended Child were individually discussed. Trustees made suggestions for research and change.

Adjournment

Upon a MOTION by A. Schell, Seconded by K. Rosen, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM

Nancy Hollyer, Secretary