

**MUSSER PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 – 4:30 P.M.
LIBRARY CONFERENCE ROOM**

PRESENT: Johnston, Koehrsen, Martin, Nus, Stelzner, Ward.
STAFF: P.Collins, Derbin, Warschauer.
ABSENT: Drake, Durbin, Lande.

MINUTES

- I. CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Stelzner called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m.
- II. APPROVE AGENDA:** The agenda was approved as printed.
- III. APPROVE MINUTES:** Koehrsen suggested a wording change and moved to approve the 7/16/08 minutes with that change. Second by Nus. All ayes. Motion carried.
- IV. BILLS FOR PAYMENT:** Ward moved to approve the bills as follows:
8/05/08 for \$21,864.67
8/19/08 for \$5,890.85
9/02/08 for \$13,573.46
Second by Martin. All ayes. Motion carried.
- V. CITIZENS SPEAK:** None present.
- VI. COMMUNICATIONS:**
 - a. **Staff Liaison:** Derbin reported that notification of holds by email is very popular with patrons as well as staff. Eventually overdue reminders will also be emailed. The new filtering software works very well and parents are happy with it.
 - b. **Director's Report:** A written report was received. Collins added that recent improvements are showing success: Holds are requiring less staff time now, and also all the patron computers now look alike and run the same software. A lot of shifting has taken place since the last meeting: YA and Manga are upstairs where the Oversize books used to be. Oversize is being integrated into the adult Nonfiction. The Spanish collection is now located around the elevator where YA used to be. We are heavily weeding the children's collection to the extent that we'd like to cut off the tall shelves and make them more kid friendly. As we weed the LT, the east wall will become the browsing area for new materials. New materials will not be allowed to go out on PALS for six months, giving our browsing patrons first pick. Fiedler and Collins have been working on the new website and will have the template ready in about two months. Trustees discussed the new reading media, rocket books, downloadable books, etc. available to readers today and in the future. The library has recently begun working with Central Middle School in an innovative silent reading program. Collins reported that Musser Library is not affiliated with Libraries Together due to some organizational issues.

VII. COMMITTEES:

- a. **Long Range Planning** – The LRP joint committee is examining different approaches apart from the Pearl Pavilion concept, such as a separate addition to the Art Center building and a large-scale library remodeling. With different space needs, new usage habits, and various partnering options, trustees discussed forming a committee to move forward. Nus moved to appoint a committee (name to be determined) for the purpose of exploring options for using the current space more effectively and into the future. Second by Johnston. All ayes. Motion carried. Four trustees volunteered --- Durham, Ward, Koehrsen and Johnston, and three library staff members were appointed --- Fiedler, P.Collins, and B.Collins. Community representatives will be added. This committee will eventually meet with a consultant to plan how to move ahead. Warschauer will take minutes at committee meetings.
- b. **Appointment of Committees** – Tabled to next meeting.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Contracts with Fruitland and Buffalo Prairie** – Because one area is in Illinois and the other is in Iowa, these contract negotiations need to be handled differently.
 - i. **Buffalo Prairie** is refusing to pay the full contract amount for the third year in a row. A letter can be sent by the City Attorney from the Board of Trustees asking for the rest of the money or the contract will be terminated. Those Illinois citizens have the option of buying a family card at Andalusia or Aledo for \$54 and we could offer them the same. Nus moved to send the rejection letter and give them eight weeks from the date of the letter to pay the total amount before cancelling their contract. Second by Johnston. All ayes. Motion carried.
 - ii. If **Fruitland** does not pay its full contract amount, those patrons may still visit the library and attend programs but will not have borrowing privileges. If they choose to get a Letts card they may not use it here or at other Iowa libraries, according to Open Access rules. Nus moved to have the City Attorney send a letter from the Trustees, signed by the President, giving Fruitland eight weeks to pay the total amount or face cancellation of the contract. Second by Martin. All ayes. Motion carried.

IX. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Friends of MPL** – A letter from the consultant working with the Friends was distributed. Due to concerns about the Friends the consultant recommended the Board take a stronger role in effort to revitalize the group. Today the Friends meeting coincided with this board meeting, so it was decided to withhold any action and give them time to fix their problems. There will be further discussion of the Friends at the next meeting.
- b. **Requests for Community Funding** – tabled.

- c. **Using Enrich Iowa Money for Staff Development** – Collins requested funding for Fiedler to attend a gaming conference in Chicago costing \$850 for three days. Koehrsen moved to approve using Enrich Iowa money for this purpose. Second by Johnston. All ayes. Motion carried.

P.Collins, B.Collins and Miksch would like to attend a one-day Young Adult conference in Chicago costing \$535 (\$95 per person plus travel).

Nus moved to approve payment from Enrich Iowa for this event. Second by Martin. All ayes. Motion carried.

- X. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,
Eugene Johnston, Secretary
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