

**BALDWIN PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING**

**February 19, 2007**

<b>Present</b>	Paul Vander Meer, Tom Sweeney, Ileana Thal, Joan Heinicke, Seth Chafetz, Ann Conigliaro
<b>Absent</b>	None
<b>Staff</b>	Martha Custer – Director, Wendy Lampert – Administrative Assistant, Julie Farkas – Associate Director
<b>Guests</b>	Warren Spatz, Dorothy Conrad, Bob Drake, Lee Peddie, Rose Weber, Jay Grossman, Lisa Martin, John Ross, Coco Siewert, Shelli Weisberg, Rick Brooks, Chris Longe, Jeff Antaya, Betty Loughlin, Edward Shehab, Amy Shehab, Jill Beshouri, David Bloom, Eaton Curtis, Geri Rinschler
<b>Call to Order</b>	President Paul Vander Meer called the meeting to order at 8:00P.M.
<b>Consent Agenda</b>	Seth Chafetz wanted item B removed. Joan Heinicke wanted item A removed
<b>Financial Report</b>	Marti Custer reported the city reversed disbursements for hospitalization and for maintenance.
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	Tom Sweeney made a motion to authorize Marti Custer, Lois Griffin, and Connie Ilmer to attend the ALA conference in Washington D.C. Ileana Thal seconded. Marti Custer was asked about the preconference sessions; Marti Custer said she is not planning to attend those sessions this year. VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer Tom Sweeney Seth Chafetz Ileana Thal Joan Heinicke Ann Conigliaro Nays, None Absent, None

Marti Custer described the RT Disc Cleaner which cleans and resurfaces CDs and DVDs and reduces the number that need to be reordered. Seth Chafetz moved to purchase the RT Disc Cleaner at a cost of \$15,995.00 to be paid from budget line 5004. Ileana Thal seconded.

David Bloom wanted to know if the machine was unsatisfactory, could it be sent back? Marti Custer said the machine can be returned for up to 30 days and has a one year warranty.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer

Tom Sweeney

Seth Chafetz

Ileana Thal

Joan Heinicke

Ann Conigliaro

Nays, None

Absent, None

Continued discussion of Roberts Rules of Order – nothing further.

Paul Vander Meer explained that the recommended increase in the Director's salary is \$2000/year. Ileana Thal made a motion to increase the Director's salary \$2000.00/year retroactive to July 1, 2006 to be paid from budget line 1001. Ann Conigliaro seconded.

Paul Vander Meer asked for discussion. Seth Chafetz asked how the motion could come back. Paul Vander Meer said it was being brought back as a new motion. Coco Siewert confirmed that was appropriate.

David Bloom asked the Board President to recuse himself because there is a special relationship between the Director and himself. Paul Vander Meer declined.

A woman asked what the Director's salary is currently. \$97,000.00/year.

Ann Conigliaro explained that the personnel committee did a review and comparative analysis of salaries at local libraries of similar size. The rest of the library employees and the city employees received an average increase of 3%.

Shelli Weisberg commended the Board for doing its research. Shelli Weisberg said this community expects that.

A man in the audience said we are fortunate to have someone willing to do this public service at this salary. The Board discussed the issue.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer  
Tom Sweeney  
Seth Chafetz  
Ileane Thal  
Ann Conigliaro  
Nays, Joan Heinicke  
Absent, None

The Board discussed the Credit Card Policy and the use of the American Express. Marti Custer explained the American Express has expired and is no longer being used by the library.

Joan Heinicke wanted the January minutes amended to say: Seth Chafetz asked Marti Custer about someone representing her at Friends' meetings when she is absent. Tom Sweeney made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2007 meeting as amended. Ann Conigliaro seconded.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer  
Tom Sweeney  
Seth Chafetz  
Ileane Thal  
Joan Heinicke  
Ann Conigliaro  
Nays, None  
Absent, None

Tom Sweeney moved to approve the individual vouchers in excess of \$6,000.00. Ileane Thal seconded.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer  
Tom Sweeney  
Seth Chafetz  
Ileane Thal  
Joan Heinicke  
Ann Conigliaro  
Nays, None  
Absent, None

Tom Sweeney moved to approve vouchers for January. Ileane Thal seconded. Following questions the Board voted.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer  
Tom Sweeney  
Seth Chafetz  
Ileane Thal  
Joan Heinicke  
Ann Conigliaro  
Nays, None  
Absent, None

Marti Custer presented the vouchers in the amount of \$257,986.74 to Tom Sweeney to be signed.

**President's Report**

Paul Vander Meer said the recent article in the Eccentric concerning his residency raised the issue to a public level and brought into question whether the library has a valid board and whether the board's decisions were legal. Since the legality was raised and the public needed an answer, it warranted an opinion by the library's attorney.

Ann Conigliaro made a comment that as a board member that she felt a primary responsibility of the board was to speak with one voice. She voiced her personal exception to the fact that a single board member had spoken prematurely to the media about an unresolved board issue.

Tom Sweeney said he concurs with Ann Conigliaro. Ileane Thal said she does too.

A woman in the audience said someone on her committee at the Historical Museum resigned when she moved away from Birmingham with no intent to return.

Dorothy Conrad said the Board was obligated to disclose this to the public and shouldn't chide a Board member who did disclose it to the public.

A woman from the audience said residency is dictated by intention, but the bigger issue is the personal vendetta which is underlying the issue. The Board shouldn't waste each other's time with bickering.

**Library Report**

Marti Custer met with State Senator Pappageorge and State Representative Moss to discuss how the state cuts will affect our library. It will severely harm TLN which delivers our interlibrary loans. Marti Custer met with TMP last week. TMP said the library has to consider the main level because it will come into play on the lower level and how it functions. The Board discussed this issue. Tom Sweeney moved to

confirm the Board's intention to renovate the main level of the library and to redesign the front entrance. Ann Conigliaro seconded.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer

Tom Sweeney

Seth Chafetz

Ileane Thal

Joan Heinicke

Ann Conigliaro

Nays, None

Absent, None

Marti Custer said Books & Beyond printed without any problems this time.

The Board discussed reviewing the city's charter in relation to the library.

Coco Siewert said she was on the Board the last time the charter was reviewed. At that time she asked Tom Sweeney to help with the review.

Dorothy Conrad said the Library Board should review the city charter and how it pertains to the library.

Paul Vander Meer was asked to draft a letter to the city stating the library's intent to review the charter language.

**Friends of the Library**

Warren Spatz said the Friends' meeting was cancelled due to snow. The Friends have asked the Director for a wish list. Marti Custer said the wish list was sent out to the Friends' Board members today.

**Beverly Hills**

Lee Peddie said Beverly Hills is excited about the Stephen Kellogg program.

**Public Comment**

Dorothy Conrad asked about the interest the city retains for administrative fees.

David Bloom said he likes the layout of the meeting in the Jeanne Lloyd Room.

Geri Rinschler thanked the library for hosting the last CECAC meeting.

Warren Spatz commented on the presentation by the investment advisor, saying there were three layers of fees with that plan.

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Minutes

**Adjournment**

The February 19, 2007 meeting of the Baldwin Public Library Board of Directors was adjourned at 9:18 P.M. Motioned by Ileana Thal. Seth Chafetz seconded.

VOTE: Yeas, Paul Vander Meer

Tom Sweeney

Seth Chafetz

Ileana Thal

Joan Heinicke

Ann Conigliaro

Nays, None

Absent, None

**Next Meeting**

March 19, 2007 at 7:30 P.M. in the Board Room

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Tom Sweeney  
Secretary, Board of Trustees  
Baldwin Public Library

Minutes prepared by Wendy Lampert