

FINANCIAL REPORT

The Committee reviews the current financial report.

BUDGET

Barbara Garbutt presents the budget report for 2007.

Eric Suess comments line by line of the budgeted amounts.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Eric Suess, Library Director gave his report.

- Circulation for December dropped a bit under 16,000, but that is to be expected in December. The circulation is still well above last year's numbers. January has started off very busy, so it looks like circulation is where we have expected it to be.
- Donations continue to arrive in good numbers. We had somewhat expected to see a lull after December's tax opportunity rush hit, but it hasn't slowed down much. We continue to process quite a lot of the donations, mostly with volunteer help.
- H.B. 6681 which cleared both the House and the Senate was signed into law by the Governor on December 30, 2006 at 11:53 p.m. and became PA 596 of 2006. A number of people put a great deal of effort into this, not the least of who was Representative, David Law and his Aide, Brett Visner. Thanks go out to all involved. This will be of great value to us!
- I will be attending the ALA Midwinter Meetings in Seattle from January 19-22, 2007 (self-funded). My focus will be the meetings of the Intellectual Freedom Round Table on which I serve as a Director, but I will also be visiting the exhibits and will be on the lookout for items and services which could benefit our library.
- The library reference positions have been posted. It looks like there are a great number of highly qualified applicants! Closing date for the applications to be received is January 26, 2007. We have received 40 applicants for the adult reference position and 20 applicants for the youth reference position and more come in every day.

OLD BUSINESS

a. Friends of the Library

Rick Sovel reports, now that the library is officially established, we have to review and re-approve all our policies. We expect to begin the formation of the friends possibly in February 2007.

OLD BUSINESS (Continued)

b. Permanent Library

No report given.

c. Official Recognition of Formation – Consequences and Goals

Eric Suess presents a letter from Lisa Hoenig, Director of the Wixom Library who requests the Commerce Library's usage and legal status. He will be attending the Wixom Library's meeting on Monday, February 26, 2007 and has responded to their request of the information, sending the circulation statistics and information on how the Commerce Library relates to other communities. The Commerce Library has met all criteria to receive reciprocity.

Eric also mentions with the official establishment, the library can apply for state aid in the fall of 2007 and be qualified to receive aid in 2008.

Rick Sovel comments with the official establishment, the distribution of penal fines will also be available in 2008.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Michicard Participation Resolution

Eric Suess reports that being recognized as an official establishment allows us to be involved in many programs. Michicard is a sticker that can be applied to any library card and allow you to use any library in Michigan. It is limited to print material. Commerce residents will be able to access all libraries that also participate in the Michicard program.

MOTION by Kelley, supported by Sternberg, the Library Advisory Committee chooses to participate and/or to recommend to the Township Board to participate in the Michicard program.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

b. Library Policies Legal Review

Eric Suess reports on the changes of the Legal Review.

The committee reviews and discusses the policy as corrected.

Carol Keeler questions the library's filtering system.

MOTION by Keeler, supported Pernick, to table the legal review.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

c. ALA Conference Report

Eric Suess reports of the events and information from his attendance at the Midwinter ALA Conference in Seattle, Washington. My primary function is as the Director at Large for the Intellectual Freedom Round Table (IFRT) of ALA. Other events in attendance were as follows:

Attended an ALA Finance ABCs workshop to get information needed by the IFRT Treasurer, whose plane arrived later than the meeting.

Attended the IFRT Executive Committee meetings whose agenda was spread out over several days. Among the items discussed were:

- An exploration by the Committee on Professional Ethics (COPE) to consider whether the ALA Code of Ethics is in need of revision.
- Examination of a FOIA request filed by the ACLU after it received information that the federal government may be surveilling organization's actively opposed to the USA PATRIOT Act in whole or in part. Given ALA's strenuous objections to Section 215 of that act, the ALA Executive Director has asked ALA's Office for Intellectual Freedom and the ALA Washington Office to develop a similar FOIA request.
- The ALA President's 'Emerging Leaders' initiative seems to be going very well. IFRT sponsored two individuals this year and resolved to sponsor two more next year.
- Establishment of a framework for a 'National Discussion on Privacy' based on a variety of concerns including, the intended use by police of 'sniffer software' on public internet terminals, FBI request of ISPs to track user activity, NSA telephone surveillance, the CALEA act, the ratification by the Senate of the European Convention on Cyber Crime, the spying on Americans by the Department of Homeland Security and the Justice Department.
- The developments regarding the Internet Bill of Rights which emerged from the UN World Summit on the Information Society in Tunis, Tunisia.
- The closing of EPA libraries and layoff of library staff, purportedly to be replaced by digitized documents. Because so many documents will *not* be digitized (anything not produced by the EPA itself, and therefore, no independent environmental research or assessments) and because the several libraries closed have many unique regional items which will be removed from public access, there is concern that an administration which has (to many) seemed environmentally unfriendly is using this as an opportunity not to be held accountable. An EPA spokesman attended the Conference and was challenged strongly. The ALA Council passed a resolution condemning both the process and the outcome.
- The business of the IFRT (committee reports, financial reports, information from our Councilor, liaison reports, etc.)

NEW BUSINESS / ALA Conference Report (Continued)

Attended the joint meeting of ALA's Intellectual Freedom Committee (IFC), IFRT and the divisional IFCs.

Attended a presentation by Time Magazine's senior writer Joe Klein entitled "Islam, Iraq and the War on terror".

Attended a fundraiser for the Freedom to Read Foundation at the architecturally stunning Seattle Public Library. The event was headlined by young adult author Chris Crutcher.

Visited the exhibits (over 800 booths) to see what's new in the field, as well as to get in touch with current vendors. I managed to get some free books, and discounts on other products we use.

c. Library Job Postings

Eric Sues reports on the job postings. They have received 40 applications for the Adult Services and 20 applications for the Youth Services. The inquiries have come in from several out-of-state applicants. Many of the applicants are outstanding candidates. January 26, 2007 will be the last day that applications will be received. April, Ben and Eric will be interviewing the applicants. The Adult Services may require a 2nd interview to make a final choice.

d. Future Library - Needs and Goals

Carol Keeler comments that we should review the demographics of our patrons to see what part of the population is or isn't being served.

Rick Sovel suggests the library formulate a survey for the patrons to learn what may be needed, a needs assessment of what further services could be offered.

TOWNSHIP BOARD REMARKS

Rick Sovel informs the committee that elections of committee positions must be made and recorded in the Minutes.

MOTION by Keeler, supported by LaFond, nominating Barbara Garbutt as Chairperson.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Lafond, supported Pernick, nominating Carol Keeler as Secretary.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOTION by Keeler, supported by Kelley, nominating Jason Pernick as Vice Chairperson.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

OTHER MATTERS

Barbara Garbutt questions if there is progress regarding the reserve book shelf?

Ann Marie Kelley comments the street light is out at Pontiac Trail and the Library entrance.

Rick Sovel responds that he will inform Tom Zoner, Township Supervisor of the street light.

Eric Sues questions if there has been any further progress of Walmart donating asphalt for the side entrance road.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Keeler, supported by LaFond, to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Carol Keeler, Secretary