

Charter Township of Commerce
Library Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes-Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Meeting called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Present: Rick Sovel, Eric Suess, Barbara Garbutt, Ann Marie Kelley, Jason Pernick, and Judy Sternberg

Absent: Carol Keeler, Betsy LaFond

Approval of Agenda

Approval of the Agenda moved by Jason Pernick, supported by Ann Marie Kelley.

Approval of Minutes of August 24, 2005

Minutes were approved by Judy Sternberg and supported by Jason Pernick.

Public Comments

No public comments

Correspondence

No correspondence

Financial Report

Ann Marie Kelley shared the Financial Report. Fines were discussed briefly and Eric Suess indicated that the library is receiving a significant amount in fines. Further discussion was deferred for later in the meeting during Township Board Remarks.

Director's Report

Eric Suess updated the Library Advisory Board on the library progress. He touched on his discussion with Joe from Plante Moran and indicated that if the library were permanently located at El Dorado they could expand. It is desirous to expand north but if El Dorado becomes the permanent site, expansion will probably be south or wherever it would not interfere with any development from possible purchasers.

Eric went on to say that circulation is high which indicates that we need to grow. In an effort to market the Library the staff is putting together a newsletter and it will mail fairly soon.

Currently, Eric sees his foremost considerations as budget, organizing the back room to handle donations of materials, and focusing on adding to the selections for computers and children's nonfiction.

Old Business

a. Friends of the Library

The attorney is working on this and it will probably go before the township board in November.

b. Permanent Library

Eric indicated that there will be a permanent library but he had no further details.

New Business

a. Library Bill of Rights

Eric feels that a Library Bill of Rights sets a tone for how we operate and mirrors the intent and interest of the library involved.

Ann Marie Kelley endorsed the Bill of Rights and Judy Sternberg supported

it. Approved unanimously.

b. ALA Code of Ethics

Jason Pernick moved to endorse and Rick Sovel supported it. Approved unanimously.

c. Libraries: An American Value

Eric feels this is a bedrock concept and is very supportive of same. Ann Marie Kelley made the motion to endorse this and Judy Sternberg supported it. Approved unanimously.

d. The Freedom to Read

Rick Sovel moved to endorse and Jason Pernick supported it. Approved unanimously.

e. Freedom to View Statement

Jason Pernick moved to endorse and Ann Marie Kelley supported it.

Approved unanimously.

Township Board Remarks

Rick Sovel shared that at the last regular township board meeting a Detroit teacher was unhappy that the library did not have Spanish and French books on a child's level and wanted to know why we can't use the W. Bloomfield Library. She wanted to use the books with Detroit students. When this was not available she was very critical of the library. Rick countered with give us some time and another community member spoke very highly of the library praising the effort.

Rick Sovel indicated that no decision has been made about a permanent library and that the current site, the Pines Clubhouse (unlikely), and a new library at a new site are all under consideration. The bottom line is when the

first parcel of DDA land is sold with a formal written proposal and a check their requests will likely be accommodated and will reflect on where the library site might be. Rick was asked to poll the Library Advisory Board on their feelings-positive or negative about permanently locating the library at El Dorado.

In favor of El Dorado Jason Pernick and Judy Sternberg who finds the site aesthetically pleasing but who also supports Ann Marie Kelley's desire for improved access.

Eric Suess favors the current site believing that an addition to El Dorado could be accomplished a lot quicker than building a new library from the ground up.

Against owing to poor access-Ann Marie Kelley
Wanting a new location- Barbara Garbutt in order to have a community center including the township hall there.
Rick Sovel wants a new location.

At the township board level there is some support to stay at El Dorado as it would be cost effective.

The Board of Trustees would like the Library Advisory Board to make suggestions to facilitate a positive community view of the library. Brief brainstorming with the group furnished the following ideas: press releases, media coverage of library programs, Book Clubs (which have been added), an email newsletter, using budget to buy a digital camera, chart showing circulation growth in the lobby, gleaned ideas from the October, 2005 Library Conference, etc. More positives, with added staff, new books are now being shelved within a day or two of receiving them and Eric Suess is looking at filling the empty shelves with books that are visible as patrons walk into the library. Circulation is up and growing monthly. The board was challenged by Rick Sovel to continue working on public relations ideas.

Eric Suess indicated that fines were set back in the spring in concert with TLN parameters. Rick Sovel requested that fines be posted and our collection process be shared. Eric Suess indicated that fines are posted and Jason Pernick will check if there is a state law governing overdue fines and/or lost books.

Other Matters

Adjournment

At 8:15 p.m. Ann Marie moved that we adjourn and Judy Sternberg supported her motion.