

Appleton Public Library
Board of Trustees Minutes
May 10, 2005

Present: Bergen, Bergman, Bloedow, de Young, Defferding, Ducklow, Moua,
Excused: Dunlap
Others present: Dawson, Kelly, Lenz, Ward, Wiczorek

Public Participation and Communications

Dawson received a very nice note from Laurie Halse Anderson complimenting the Library's efforts on the "One Community One Book" program. Halse Anderson stated she appreciated the support of the City of Appleton and the Public Library; she said "Appleton really knows how to do One Community One Book."

Library Board Appointments & Introduction of New Member

Dawson announced the re-appointments by Mayor Hanna of Board members Bloedow, de Young, and Moua. Congratulations!

Dawson introduced new Board member Alderperson Wayne Defferding. Defferding was appointed to the Board to fill the aldermanic position previously held by Alderperson Hank Eng. Everyone welcomed Defferding to the APL Board of Trustees and the trustees look forward to working with him.

Minutes and Bill Registers

President Bloedow called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. de Young moved and Bergman seconded approval of the April 14, 2005 minutes. Defferding abstained. Motion passed. Bergman moved and Moua seconded approval of the April 2005 Bill Register; the motion passed unanimously.

In reviewing the financial statements, Dawson said he continues to be concerned by the cost of utilities and the utilities budget. Dawson also said he is hoping for a mild summer due to the rising cost of fuel prices. As of April 2005, almost half of the year's utilities budget has been expended. There has been an increase in costs of approximately 8%. Bergman explained this was due to increasing costs of fuel and natural gas as well as changes in infrastructure. Wiczorek stated he would be working with WE Energies Focus on Energy and Johnson Controls in the next few weeks to look at ways to conserve energy.

Planning Committee Report: Library Board Retreat Follow-Up

de Young summarized the Library Board Retreat which took place the evening of April 28, 2005 at the Outagamie County Historical Society Museum. Topics of discussion included staff morale and stress, staff credentials and education, generational differences, programming and services, and technology. The Board members were very impressed with the qualifications of the APL staff.

The retreat allowed reaffirmation of the board as a group. The experience was positive and it was time well spent. Special thanks were extended to Bergen for hosting the retreat at the Historical Museum.

Director's Report

Dawson distributed copies of the April 2005 statistics. April 2005 has been the busiest April on record. Actually, all of the months in 2005 have been our busiest on record! Web page hits are up. People are utilizing web information more frequently.

Dawson informed the trustees of the due date for the 2006 Budget Request to the City. The due date is June 10, 2005. Dawson advised the Board Finance Committee and Board Personnel Committee meet sometime prior to the June 9th Board meeting to discuss issues related to the 2006 proposed budget. The committees tentatively agreed to meet on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 4:00 p.m.

Dawson also distributed a Power Point presentation of the 2006 Status Quo Library Budget and explained this was a contingency list of ways to reduce the budget by approximately 5%. Dawson emphasized the 2006 Status Quo Budget recommendations we subject to Library Board approval. Dawson also distributed the current Library Table of Organization to provide the Board with additional process background.

Dawson attended the ALA Federal Legislative Day in Washington D.C. the week of May 2nd. 2005. His trip was funded by WLA. Dawson spent the day participating in briefings of library issues and meeting with representatives in the Congressional offices. Overall conversations with Congressmen were positive and productive. The most controversial topic was the Patriotic Act. The Attorney General is willing to work with the ALA Washington staff to discuss ways to find some common ground. Other issues which were addressed and discussed were the Copyright Fair Use Bill and the Consumers Digital Millennium Copyright Act. The day concluded with a reception in the House cafeteria.

OWLSNET has made some delivery system changes. OWLS has replaced the previous delivery system by contracting with WALTCO. The delivery service had been rapidly growing and was becoming too costly to maintain. It would have been necessary to purchase another van and hire additional drivers; therefore the decision was made to contract with WALTCO. The change is working out well.

The Library summer hours schedule will take effect after Memorial Day. As of May 31, 2005 the Library will be open Monday – Thursday 9:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., Friday 9:00 a.m. – 6 p.m., Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. and closed on Sundays. This schedule will remain in effect until Labor Day. Depending on the 2006 budget process the Library Board decided not to meet in August.

Dawson distributed copies of the 1st Quarter Report submitted to City Finance to board members for review.

Other Business

The FOAL Spring book sale will be held at the Library on Friday May 13, and Saturday May 14. There is an excellent selection of books, CDs, videos and DVDs for sale.

The meeting adjourned at 5:11p.m.