

**MINUTES OF
HENNEPIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD MEETING
January 26, 2011**

The Hennepin County Library Board met Wednesday, January 26, 2011 at Minneapolis Central Library.

Present: Brandi Brown, Caitlin Cahill, Holly Guncheon, Sandy Johnson, Jill Joseph, Claudia Kelly, Kathleen Lamb, Gary Thaden and Therese VanBlarcom
Hennepin County Staff: Bill Berg, Sharon Charles, Edward Hathaway, Constance Hill, Teresa Jepma, Kelli Koob, Lois Lenroot-Ernt, Michele McGraw, Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, Janet Mills, Jodi Monson, Nancy Palmer, Allen Rezac, Bill Rodgers, Sarah Rosenblum, Char Sohlberg, Lois Thompson and Betsy Williams
Public: Minneapolis City Council Member Barbara Johnson, Chris Damsgard, Bill Deef, Yuko Miyamoto, Michael Rainville and Julia Wallace

CALL TO ORDER

President Therese VanBlarcom welcomed attendees and called the Library Board meeting of Jan. 26, 2011 to order at 5:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Jill Joseph made a motion to approve the agenda which was seconded by Gary Thaden. Motion passed.

CONSENT ITEMS

Claudia Kelly made a motion to approve the consent agenda. President VanBlarcom noted the significance of nearly \$140,000 from the Foundation; their support helps sustain library services. Caitlin Cahill seconded the motion. Motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENT No public comment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Lois Langer Thompson announced Hennepin County Library (HCL) surpassed the 17 million circulation mark in 2010, recognized the work of the Library Board and noteworthy system-wide accomplishments.
- Webber Park Library celebrated 100 years of service Sat., Jan. 15 with Library Board members Jill Joseph and Gary Thaden in attendance. Ms. Joseph noted the Friends of the Library requested the Library Board's continued support and desire for more open hours. At the call of the President, the director's report was suspended to accommodate the program report presentation.

PROGRAM REPORT

President VanBlarcom introduced Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin (represents District 4 which includes Minneapolis Central, Southeast, Franklin, East Lake, Hosmer, Roosevelt and Nokomis libraries); Minneapolis City Council Member Barbara Johnson (represents 4th Ward which includes seven neighborhoods in the Northwest corner of Minneapolis; Webber Park and North Regional libraries); and representatives from Meet Minneapolis: Michael Rainville, Bill Deef and Yuko Miyamoto.

Sister-cities: Minneapolis and Ibaraki, Japan

- A gift of 50 copies of the title, "*Fuji-san*" from the city of Ibaraki Japan in honor their 30-year relationship was presented to HCL.
- Commissioner McLaughlin accepted the gift, expressed his appreciation and recognized the work of Council Member Johnson and Meet Minneapolis staff that makes these types of global relationships possible. He noted the work of Alice Rainville, who in 1980 became the first woman president of the Minneapolis City Council; it was her vision that founded this relationship. He stated the County Board is proud to continue to support the tradition of a great library system; and recognized an attentive Library Board that helps ensure HCL will continue to serve citizens for many years.
- Council Member Johnson expressed her appreciation, noting the importance of volunteer support, and summarized a trip to Ibaraki in Sept. 2010 that included Library Board member Kathleen Lamb. A gift exchange was suggested. She recognized the importance of the recent Webber Park Library 100 years of service celebration and the successful library merger due to the efforts of the Commissioners, Library Board and staff, and stated it has been a huge success for citizens who truly value their libraries. Ms. Lamb added how important the sister-city relationship with Minneapolis is to the citizens of Ibaraki.

Library Journal's Landmark Libraries entry:

President VanBlarcom noted letters of support for Minneapolis Central Library were received in relation to *Library Journal's* Landmark Libraries nominations. Award announcements are pending; she acknowledged it is the County Board's continued leadership and commitment to libraries that makes award-winning facilities possible.

Commissioner McLaughlin's Remarks to Library Board

- Library merger: Commissioner McLaughlin complimented Council Member Johnson for her generous commitment of time and energy to consolidating two world-class library systems. This type of undertaking is never easy but HCL has a solid footing, remains a premier library and it may raise to even greater heights. People throughout the county have been well-served by the consolidation.
- District 4 updates: Nokomis Library grand opening will be the end of April; the community is excited and the neighborhood looks forward to the library being a renewed part of the commercial area. Discussions on Southeast and Roosevelt libraries are anticipated and the successful model of community involvement that was used at Nokomis Library will be repeated.
- Library hours: Ballpark sales tax revenue has been incredible; very few libraries in the country have expanded hours. The County Board is very committed to investing these funds into library hours and this will continue.
- Budget challenges: the impact of the State's deficit on local governments is unknown; he noted Library Board members may need to plug into the financial debate during the legislative session so critical community institutions, like libraries, are not compromised in

pursuit of short-term budget solutions. The County Board remains committed to libraries and Commissioner McLaughlin does not anticipate any changes to that commitment. Discussion followed; President VanBlarcom thanked Commissioner McLaughlin.

Library Services Overview – Library Services Division Manager Sharon Charles

Ms. Charles provided an overview of the Library Services Division and responsibilities: adult services, Outreach, youth services, programming (including Legacy Funding), immigrant resources, specialized collections at Minneapolis Central Library, information and online services and library management (three management groups plus circulation and materials handling for 41 libraries). Throughout 2011, details about services and initiatives will be presented to the Board by managers of the various services. Highlights of some initiatives currently underway: smart phone access availability this spring; public website redesign; a new service model; and integrated customer service. Facilities are being redesigned and technology being identified, along with online content development and staff training. Discussion followed on timelines, details will be coming from individual managers as the year progresses. A suggestion was made to include posters in libraries to tell our story about HCL's award winning services and support the critical importance HCL has in the community. President VanBlarcom noted the broad outline provided by Ms. Charles is aligned with HCL's strategic plan.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT (resumed by Lois Thompson)

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday: questions are asked why libraries are open and as noted recently by Commissioner Randy Johnson, the County Board is committed to having libraries open as a great way to honor Dr. King and his commitment to learning.
- One or two Library Board members may volunteer to attend an upcoming One Read event at the men's section of the Adult Corrections facility. Details on the event will be forwarded. If you are interested in attending, please let Char Sohlberg know.
- Resources are available for the Library Board for a gift for Ibaraki, Japan. Possible titles were suggested along a thank-you letter from the Library Board with all members' signatures.
- Judy Regenscheid was selected as Hennepin County Chief Information Officer.
- The County Board modified language to the proposed 2011 legislative platform which includes technology and collection as a priority; this is more specific than the previously stated support for "renewal of allocation" of Legacy Arts and Cultural Heritage Funding for libraries. Additional information on the legislative platform from the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) was shared.
- Library Board applicant interviews are Feb. 1 @ 5:30 p.m. County Board Room and Feb. 8 @ 6 p.m. at Ridgedale Library, Robert H. Rohlf meeting room. Incumbents must call Yolanda McCrary to request an interview date by Jan. 28.
- Saturday morning grand opening dates set: Northeast Library-April 2; Nokomis Library-April 30; planning is underway.
- The MN Trustees section of MLA is in the process of reactivating themselves. Library Boards have been asked to identify a designee. If you are interested, please notify Therese VanBlarcom or Lois Thompson.
- The 2011 Operating Budget was approved; planning for 2012 is underway. Department retreats are expected with the County Board and preliminary directions are to include proposed reductions in significant service areas. The strategic plan will be used to assist in identifying those area(s). 2012 Budget request development will be brought back to the Board for further discussion. President VanBlarcom suggested a work session meeting be scheduled when budget timeline information is known to allow time for discussion.

PRESIDENTS REPORT

- Discussion on the latest version of the HCL Strategic Plan 2011-2025 occurred. Suggestions will be incorporated into the next version for final Library Board review/recommendation to the County Board at the Feb. 23 Library Board meeting.
- Kathleen Lamb will represent the Library Board on the Athenaeum Operations group (with representatives from the Athenaeum, Library Foundation and Library Resource Services Division Manager Bill Rodgers)
- The 2011 Library Board strategic action plan outlines future topics, benchmarks and progress. Discussion followed.
- If interested in a link to the *MN Sun Newspaper* article on Claudia Kelly, please contact Char Sohlberg.
- Past president John Gibbs' resignation from the Library Board was shared; a copy of the letter will be forwarded to board colleagues. His presence and deep commitment to the Library Board cannot be over-stated; he will truly be missed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Program/Policy Committee chair Vice President Kelly noted: next meeting is Jan. 28, 3 p.m., Ridgedale Library Administrative Offices.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Jill Joseph made a motion to adjourn the Library Board meeting at 6:20 p.m. which was seconded by Sandy Johnson. The motion passed. The next Library Board meeting is February 23, 2011 Maple Grove Library, 8001 Main St. N., Maple Grove, 55369 at 5 p.m.