

**MONROE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES**

1. At a Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Monroe County Library System held on February 9, 2009 at the Ida Branch Library, the meeting was called to order by Chairperson Elizabeth J. Taylor at 6:01 pm. Roll call by Secretary Laurence Gregory follows:

Present: Elizabeth J. Taylor, Chair; MaryAnn Bourque, Vice-Chair; Laurence Gregory, Secretary; Catharine Calder, Trustee; and Nancy Colpaert, Director.

Excused: Fred Lux, Trustee.

Staff: Nancy Bellaire, Marie Sowa, Bill Reiser, Suzanne Krueger

A quorum being present, the Board proceeded to transact business.

2. Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Secretary Gregory, that the agenda be approved as presented. Motion carried.
3. Motion by Secretary Gregory, supported by Vice-chair Bourque, to approve the minutes of the regular board meeting January 12, 2009 and the special board meeting January 20, 2009 as printed. Motion carried.
4. Public Comment - Bill Reiser shared the Keeping the Blues Alive award the library received in Memphis on February 7 and invited board members to February Black History Month events including the Big Gig on Saturday, February 28 at the River Raisin Centre for the Arts.

Ida Community Librarian Suzanne Krueger welcomed the board and introduced Sheri Hilkins, Ida Township Treasurer, Joyce Davis, chair of the Ida Library Advisory Board and Andrew Kreichbaum, president of the Friends of Ida Branch Library. Ms. Hilkins and Mr. Kreichbaum shared that the township and the Friends had joined together to purchase an AV system, including speakers in the Community Room. Ms. Davis noted that the community is pleased with Ms. Krueger's appointment as Community Librarian as she is a member of the local community.

5. Consent Agenda
Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Secretary Gregory, to accept the items on the consent agenda as presented, including the January 2009 Financial Report, and place on file. Motion carried.
6. Committee Reports –

Finance Committee - Ms. Calder gave the report. She noted that penal fine income was down in January. Two \$250 Mary K. Daume scholarships will be available for awarding this year. The committee acknowledged a \$10,000 gift to the library from Wilma Price for a microfilm reader-printer for Ellis with remaining funds to be used for items for the Custer Collection.

Facilities Committee – no meeting

Policy and Personnel Committee – Mr. Gregory gave the report. He noted that Director Colpaert was looking at alternative insurance programs for retiree health care in an effort to control costs while maintaining coverage.

Technology Committee – no meeting

Woodlands Cooperative Library Board did not meet in January.

Legislative update – Mr. Gregory noted that Governor Jennifer Granholm had announced the elimination of the Department of History Arts and Libraries during her State of the State address. No further details were available.

7. Unfinished Business - none

8. New Business

Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Secretary Gregory, to approve payment of the bills for the month ending January 31, 2009, in the amount of \$710,576.64.

Motion carried.

Motion by Trustee Calder, supported by Vice-chair Bourque, to accept revisions to the Public Fax policy lowering the cost to send and receive faxes in branches. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Secretary Gregory to approve “Feed the Blues” program allowing donations of cash and non-perishable food for the Salvation Army Food Closet and God Works! at all February 2009 Blues concerts. Motion carried.

Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Trustee Calder to close library branches for a staff in-service on Friday, April 24. Bernard Margolis, former MCLS Director, now State Librarian for the State of New York, will be the keynote speaker as we celebrate the library system’s 75th anniversary. Motion carried.

Chair Taylor appointed MaryAnn Bourque and herself to a 2010-2012 Strategic Planning Committee.

9. Director’s Report

Copies of F. Scott Fitzgerald’s The Great Gatsby were distributed to board members. The Great Gatsby is the Monroe County Big Read title for 2009. Many MCLS book clubs are reading the title in March or April as part of the Big Read.

She noted that Summerfield-Petersburg, Dorsch and Navarre branches had all had trouble with melting ice in the past week.

The drawings for the Ellis building have been delivered to Fanning Howey to be entered into their CAD program. Jim Mumby is working on a contract.

Representative Kathy Angerer is planning a press conference at the Bedford branch Library on February 27 to announce the partnership between MCLS and Michigan Works! in helping unemployed Monroe County citizens find jobs.

Ms. Colpaert shared some of the numbers from the annual report filed with the Library of Michigan. Our collection consists of 572,405 units. Our total circulation for 2007 was 1,291,932 with 443,405 children's materials circulated. 54,408 reference transactions took place. There were 704,777 library visits and 2043 library programs with 47,204 attending. The 143 public computers were used for 149,215 sessions.

10. Board Comments

Trustee Calder noted that the Ida Branch is a wonderful example of a great community library. She expressed concern that the Ellis Building project stay on schedule.

Secretary Gregory recalled the day the Ida Library was dedicated and also remembers board meetings in "The Trailer".

Vice-chair Bourque commented on recent positive press coverage for library programs and services.

Chair Taylor congratulated the library system and Bill Reiser on the receipt of the Keeping the Blues Award. She asked if Director Colpaert could provide a calendar of upcoming events for board members. She is considering attending the 2009 American Library Association Conference in Chicago in July.

11. Public Comment – none.

12. Announcements

Date of Next Board Meeting – Monday, March 9, 2009 @ 6:00 p.m., at Carleton Branch Library, 1444 Kent St., Carleton MI.

13. Adjournment

Motion by Vice-chair Bourque, supported by Trustee Calder to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurence Gregory, Secretary

Elizabeth J. Taylor, Chair