

BROCKVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONTHLY BOARD MEETING Monday - February 9, 2009 at 4 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: At 4:00 p.m.

PRESENT: M. Wicklum, N. Van Ulden, J. Huether, C. Quick, J. Wlodarczyk, J. Cullen, D. Dodge-Phillips, H. Noble, G. Beach and M. Williams.

Three library staff attended the meeting as members of the public.

Chair Margaret Wicklum welcomed Diana Dodge-Phillips to the Library Board.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: It was moved by C. Quick and seconded by J. Cullen that the agenda be approved as amended to include additional items under business arising from the minutes and new business. CARRIED

DECLARATION OF ANY PECUNIARY CONFLICT OF INTEREST: None was declared.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING: It was moved by C. Quick and seconded by N. Van Ulden that the minutes of January 12, 2009 be approved. CARRIED

CHAIR'S REMARKS: M. Wicklum reported that the Ontario Library Association Conference held in Toronto from Jan. 27 to 31 had been stimulating and enjoyable. She convened four workshops and at the awards dinner she sat beside Aileen Carroll, the Minister of Culture, whom she found was very supportive of public libraries. Among the many excellent keynote speakers at the conference was Justin Trudeau who spoke at the closing lunch on Sat. Jan. 31.

M. Noble commented that he had also enjoyed the conference. He was approached by staff from the Brockville Mental Health Centre and told about the excellent partnership that has developed between the hospital and the Brockville Public Library to share the hospital's books on mental health topics and issues.

IN CAMERA: PERSONNEL MATTER

It was moved by D. Dodge-Phillips and seconded by N. Van Ulden that the meeting move in camera at 4:10 p.m. CARRIED

It was moved by D. Dodge-Phillips and seconded by N. Van Ulden that the meeting move out of in camera without reporting at 4:25 p.m. CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

- a) Finance: It was moved by N. Van Ulden and seconded by C. Quick that the Brockville Public Library Board approve wage increases for pages effective March 31, 2009, starting rate \$8.90; after two years \$9.50; and that the Supply Rate be changed to read "current adult minimum wage: instead of a set per hour rate. CARRIED

A question was raised about the Library's investment of yet unspent *Roots and Wings* funds. Treasurer J. Wlodarczyk will investigate options and report to the Board.

- b) Building maintenance: Repairing the flat roof on the 1971 addition to the Library has been included by the City in its 2009 budget.
- c) Budget presentation: The Library's 2009 budget was well received by City Council at a meeting in council chambers on Monday February 2. Board treasurer Janet Wlodarczyk did the presentation and CEO M. Williams answered questions from the Mayor and city councilors. Councillor God Beach recommended the library budget to council for approval and commented on the hard work done by staff to keep the 2009 request for funding to only a 1.2% increase. J. Wlodarczyk thanked the library staff members who attended the budget presentation.

CORRESPONDENCE: A letter dated Jan. 19, 2009 was received from the City of Brockville appointing Diana Dodge-Phillips to the Brockville Public Library Board, the term to expire on Nov. 30, 2012. Chair M. Wicklum commented to Mrs. Dodge-Phillips that her appointment is only for the present term of City Council and therefore ends in 2010.

ACCOUNTS: It was moved by N. Van Ulden and seconded by C. Quick that the Brockville Public Library approve of accounts payable for the Brockville Public Library for the month of January 2009 in the amount of \$52,407.87 and that this be authority to pay same. CARRIED.

REPORT OF THE C.E.O.: In addition to her written report which was distributed in the February board package, M. Williams reported as follows:

Brockville Reads *The Book of Negroes* by Lawrence Hill:

Lawrence Hill's visit on Feb. 3 was a huge success. At 2 p.m. Doreen Barnes of COGECO interviewed Mr. Hill at the Library. Mr. Hill visited Leeds County Books to meet owners Jake and Pat Belanger and staff person Russ Disotell. More than 80 people came for the book signing from 3:30 to 4:45 at the Library and Leeds County Books sold a lot of books. More than 185 people came to BCI at 7:30 for Mr. Hill's reading and discussion. He signed books for 45 min. after that and people bought more books. Comments in our guest book were complimentary and enthusiastic and we continue to hear positive comments from the public. Our community partners, the *Recorder and Times* and Leeds county books, were excellent supporters. The newspaper gave us free advertising (value of more than \$1800) and reporter Ron Zajac wrote four excellent articles. Pat and Jake Belanger from Leeds County Books promoted Brockville Reads in their bookstore with posters and bookmarks, and a special window display, and they offered ideas and advice to the organizing committee. Library staff promoted Brockville Reads on the library's website, and borrowed copies of *The Book of Negroes* through interlibrary loan. Local book clubs read and discussed the book and came out to hear Mr. Hill. Our organizing committee did a fantastic job: volunteer Betsy Heatly, staff member Margie Bentley and CEO Margaret Williams. To sum up: Brockville Reads raised the Brockville Public Library's profile in our own city and in neighbouring communities; brought visitors from Kingston, Ottawa and

Cape Vincent, N.Y.; contributed to tourism; supported the local economy (Mr. Hill dined at the Buell Street Bistro and stayed at The Green Door Bed and Breakfast, and visitors ate at a local restaurant); supported downtown businesses; celebrated an award-winning Canadian author; supported the publisher and bookstores; and promoted and supported literacy. Expenses incurred: \$1265.

City's Website:

The Brockville Public Library is now listed on the home page of the City's new website. The CEO will send her thanks to city staff.

1000 Islands Writers Festival:

The CEO reported that she is a member of the organizing committee for the first Thousand Islands Writers Festival to be held in the fall of 2010 in various venues in Brockville. Doreen Barnes is the Chair and the Festival Board has many community members committed to this new venture. The purpose of the festival is to celebrate and promote writing by local and national writers, and to promote the 1000 Islands region.

Service Review Recommendations: Souvenirs and Digitization

Our 2007 Service Review recommendations included selling city souvenirs and offering digitization services as a money-maker. Library staff recommends that instead of competing with local businesses that instead we market our library and its services; for example, sell canvas book bags with the library logo, hours of service, website address, etc. At a recent staff meeting, staff recommended that we do a market survey to see if there is any interest from City Hall or the Brockville Museum for digitization of documents.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Strategic Planning Committee: Committee Chair H. Noble presented a written report and distributed copies.
2. Ontario Library Boards Association information: Chair M. Wicklum distributed a questionnaire, part of the OLBA's Leadership by Design program, and asked board members to complete and return them to her.
3. The CEO asked for confirmation by the Board that she is not to be a member of the Strategic Planning Committee, an appointment that was made by the Board at the November 2008 board meeting. Chair M. Wicklum confirmed that that was correct.

NEXT MEETING: Monday March 9, 2009 at 4 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: by J. Cullen at 5:25 p.m.