

MEETING OF THE TOWN OF TONAWANDA LIBRARY BOARD
FEBRUARY 12, 2013

A regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Tonawanda Public Library was held on Tuesday, February 12, 2013 at the Kenmore Library, 160 Delaware Road, Kenmore, New York, following due notice to trustees, official public notice to the Tonawanda News, and a posting in the Kenmore and Kenilworth Libraries. The following members were present:

Jason Aronoff	Sheila Ginnane	Penny DePasquale
Nancy O'Donnell	Jeanne Phillips	

Also attending: Dorinda Darden, Library Director of Kenmore-Town of Tonawanda Libraries

APPROVAL/CHANGES TO AGENDA:

- Motion made by Sheila Ginnane to accept the agenda as written and seconded by Penny DePasquale. Motion passed.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR THE JANUARY, 2013 MEETING:

- Motion made by Penny DePasquale to accept minutes and seconded by Nancy O'Donnell. Motion passed.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR:

Report on the January 19th ACT Meeting held at the Clearfield Library. (Amended from Sue Jacobs' report on the meeting.) Dorinda Darden, Sheila Ginnane, Jeanne Phillips and Jason Aronoff attended the meeting. Sixteen libraries were represented at the meeting. The first part of the meeting was devoted to Jeannine Doyle's (HR) explanation of the impact of the Affordable Health Care Act on the library system, particularly as it applies to part-time employees. There were a lot of questions about the health care topic, and only a half hour was left for the primary reason for the meeting, Libby Post's presentation on advocacy training to help convince people of the importance of the special library district.

Libby wanted to get us started with educating our local leaders and the public on the Special Library District Initiative. She had planned to walk us through multiple documents and steps on our way to a November 2014 vote. Before we can present legislation on the district, however, we have to establish a "home rule" message; that is; we need the support of our town supervisors, our County Legislators, the County Executive, and our State representatives. Libby distributed a number of pages for us to consider in making the case to elected and business leaders.

2. January 26th citizens meeting with Kevin Hardwick
About 25 citizens met with Erie County Legislator Hardwick on Saturday,

January 26th. Mr. Hardwick sent letters (somewhat) randomly to constituents in his district. He covered three areas for which he encouraged discussion and comments and questions. The first was the ten-year lease agreement the County signed with the Buffalo Bills. Although he was initially not convinced that it was in the economic best interests of the County to do the lease, the facts that the Bills presented to request County support were so compelling that he became convinced that the Bills' economic benefits to the County are overwhelmingly positive. Not only do the Bills support many different kinds of businesses, they assure that many millionaires reside in the County, pay taxes, and spend much of their money here. In addition, because the television contracts are so lucrative, most of the money that keeps the Bills financially viable and paying so many people and businesses is money that comes in from outside of Western New York.

The second was the cost to Town taxpayers of students from the Town attending NCCC. For each student from the Town attending NCCC the Town of Tonawanda, and for other Erie county towns having student attend NCCC, a fee has to be paid to Niagara County. In 2010, our Town paid Niagara County \$860,000. Erie County has a similar arrangement with Niagara County for their students who attend ECCC, but the number of students going to NCCC, especially from Erie County's north towns, is much higher than students coming in from Niagara County. Kevin Hardwick has proposed that the State amend the provisions of how that money, and how much of that money, gets sent from Town to County. The issue is one that the Towns in Erie County most impacted also should be protesting with State officials.

The third issue was the libraries. Mr. Hardwick wanted to acquaint the citizens present about the special library district. He asked Jason Aronoff to tell something about it. Several people had no use for libraries and thought they would be a thing of the past. Several others spoke up for libraries and were sympathetic to a greater funding stream. One woman said that libraries were a measure of the community's quality of life and she'd rather the funding go to libraries instead of the Bills, which she did not think made the quality of life in the area better.

3. On January 29th, Dorinda Darden and Jason Aronoff met with Sam Saunderson, Senior Sales Representative of Graybar and Jon Nickerson, a Commercial Energy Consultant with National Grid to talk about the proposed lighting changes at the Kenmore Library. We were told about getting a higher and more uniform lighting level throughout the room, about the probable savings on the lighting bills, and about other fixtures that might be installed to give more variety and interest to the room, rather than having a uniform and bland upper level treatment throughout the room. Sam Saunderson was going to further refine how the lighting would be set up and send us a plan that we could describe and put before our Library Board for a

vote to go ahead or not. He is still working on the plan.

4. Jeanne Phillips and Jason Aronoff attended the February 10th meeting with Libby Post at the Lancaster Library. Ten people, including Libby Post and Mary Jean Jakubowski, attended the training session about how to approach business and governmental leaders to make a case for supporting the Special Library District. Four libraries were represented.

In a power point presentation, Libby emphasized many of the points she had put together in the handouts she later distributed to us. It will be important for us to be prepared to make strong cases to the leaders with whom we meet and be ready to answer questions the people may have, and to do all of this within 15 minutes or so if necessary.

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR:

STATISTICS

Circulation:

Kenmore: January 2012: 19,460 January 2013: 27,045 +39.0%*

Kenilworth: January 2012: 8,764 January 2013: 6,804 -22.4%*

Foot Traffic:

Kenmore: January 2012: 11,128 January 2013: 16,792 +50.9%*

Kenilworth: January 2012: 5,061 January 2013: 3,280 -35.2%*

*Door counts are in transition - the old system took into account all of the traffic leaving and entering the reading room to store in-transit items for pick-up in the Community Room, as well as cleaning staff accessing the Community Room, lobby and parking lot. The new system only counts people entering and leaving the building. In 2012 Kenilworth was open an additional 32 hours from January 23, 2012 - January 31, 2012 due to the closing of the Kenmore Branch for remodeling. The Kenmore Branch was closed for remodeling from January 23, 2012 - February 7, 2012.

Programs - Kenmore Branch Librarian Nicole Bermingham presented **Toddler Time for 2s Storytime** on January 4th, January 11th, January 18th and January 25th with 49 children and 43 adults for a total of 92 in attendance. The Falk School visited the Kenilworth Branch on January 7th with 2 children and 1 adult for a total of 3 in attendance. The Heritage Center visited the Kenmore Branch on January 10th with 6 children and 2 adults for a total of 8 in attendance. The children looked at books with their teachers. Kenilworth Branch Manager Amy Christman presented her **Adult Monthly Journal Group** meeting at the Kenmore Branch on January 15th with a total of 14 in attendance. The Central Library Cybertrain staff presented three adult computer classes at the Kenmore Branch. The **e-Reader Open Lab** was held on January 8th with 40 in attendance, the **Computer Basics** class was held on January 18th with 12 in attendance and the **Internet Basics** class was held on January 25th with 14 in attendance for a total of 66 in attendance. A Cub Scout Troop visited the Kenmore Branch on

January 16th with 10 scouts and 5 adults for a total of 15 in attendance. Kenmore Branch Librarian Nancy Offerman gave a tour of the children's area and talked about reference sources. Another Cub Scout Troop visited the Kenmore Branch on January 17th with 9 scouts and 6 adults for a total of 15 in attendance. Kenmore Branch Librarian Nicole Bermingham gave a tour of the children's area and talked about reference sources.

Kenmore Branch Caretaker Rickie Davis installed a coat hook on the door of the upstairs public restroom at the Kenmore Branch on January 12th. Several patrons have suggested this be done. He also installed a coat hook on the door of Kenmore Branch Manager Susan Makowski's office.

Town of Tonawanda Public Library Director Dorinda Darden and Town of Tonawanda Public Library Board of Trustees Member Jason Aronoff met with Michael Farrell from Frey Electric and Sam Saunderson from Graybar Electric Company on January 15th and with Sam Saunderson from Graybar Electric Company and Jonathan Nickerson from National Grid on January 29th to discuss the proposed lightning upgrades at the Kenmore Branch Library.

Town of Tonawanda Public Library Director Dorinda Darden, Town of Tonawanda Public Library Board of Trustees Members Jason Aronoff, Sheila Ginnane and Jeanne Phillips attended the Association of Contracting Library Trustees (ACT) Meeting held at the Clearfield Branch Library on January 19th. Human Resources/Labor Relations Officer Jeannine Doyle discussed the **Affordable Health Care Act** and Libby Post from Communication Services presented the **Education/Advocacy Campaign for the Special Legislative District Public Library**.

The Kenmore Art Society graciously displayed beautiful and colorful artwork throughout the Kenmore Branch on January 24th and February 4th. This artwork will be on display indefinitely and will be replaced as needed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- Discussion of utilization of presently vacant offices in the Kenmore Library. Dorinda Darden has received many suggestions from the staff including using them as a computer lab, book store, reading area, wireless tech area, tutoring room, literacy volunteer room and use for elementary art display area. These options will be discussed with the Friends of the Library for their input.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Jason Aronoff discussed the need for names of potential new trustees. He has the names of some candidates that he will present at the next meeting.

Penny Depasquale made a motion to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Sheila Ginnane seconded this motion. Meeting adjourned.

THE NEXT MEETING OF THE TOWN OF TONAWANDA LIBRARY BOARD WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 12 AT 7:00 PM