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MINUTES

Standing Committee on Services • Board of Trustees • Batavia Public Library District

Special Meeting

Tuesday • 3 August 2010

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Gibson called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. in the Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room of the Batavia Public Library.

2. **Call the Roll**

Committee Members Present: Randall E. Gibson, Maureen A. Jakubowski, and Douglas S. Sullivan (arrived at 6:09 p.m.)

Committee Members Absent: None

Other Trustees Present: None

Staff Members Present: Director George H. Scheetz, Stacey L. Cisneros, and Joanne C. Zillman

Visitors Present: None

3. **Approve the Agenda**

Motion by Trustee Jakubowski to approve the agenda, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Gibson. All: Aye. The motion carried.

Trustee Sullivan arrived at 6:09 p.m.

4. **Approve the Minutes:** Special Meeting, Wednesday, 9 June 2010

Trustee Gibson asked whether there were any changes to the minutes of the special meeting, copies of which were distributed prior to the Committee meeting.

Motion by Trustee Sullivan to approve the minutes of the special meeting, as presented. Seconded by Trustee Jakubowski. All: Aye. The motion carried.

5. **Downloadable Collections**

Director Scheetz noted that a report by Roseanne I. Biver, reference librarian, and Stacey L. Cisneros, head, Adult Services, was included in the Committee packet.

This Objective / Project was identified in the Strategic Plan, as follows:

***Strategic Plan:** Priority: Promote Lifelong Learning and Leisure Pursuits—Goal: To provide high-interest collections focused on the interests and needs of users and ensure the most favorable access to them—Objectives / Projects: Explore whether to provide a variety of downloadable collections (music, videos, etc.)*

At the request of Director Scheetz, Cisneros presented an overview of her report, as delineated below.

Downloadable Video

Cisneros reported that most high-demand, popular feature films are not available to public libraries in a downloadable format. Discussion followed.

In response to a question from Trustee Gibson, discussion followed on Redbox. Director Scheetz reported that the Library had approached Redbox on several occasions—via postal letter, telephone call, and e-mail message—since September 2009, to no avail.

In response to a comment by Trustee Gibson, discussion followed on other vending solutions, like the MediaBank video / game dispensing unit installed outside at the new Rakow Branch Library in Elgin.

Director Scheetz described the fully unattended vending solution, “BranchAnywhere,” recently launched by Evanced Solutions Inc., which he examined at the American Library Association Conference in Washington, D.C. Discussion followed.

In response to a question from Trustee Sullivan, discussion followed on business models.

Downloadable Music

Cisneros reported that most vendors offering downloadable music to libraries do not offer high-demand, popular music. Freegal, which offers the complete Sony music catalog, is the only vendor that offers the types of music in highest demand by library users. Cisneros reported that Freegal does not use digital rights managements (DRM).

Director Scheetz reported that Freegal operates under a business model in which downloadable music is purchased by libraries and given to users—a radically different approach from the traditional lending model. Discussion followed.

Downloadable Audiobooks and eBooks

Cisneros reported that the Library currently provides access to approximately 2,000 downloadable audiobook titles and 500 e-book titles through eMediaLibrary.

In response to a question from Trustee Sullivan, Cisneros reported that the subscription with eMediaLibrary currently costs \$3,000 per year.

In Summary

Cisneros presented a series of conclusions in relation to downloadable collections, which are delineated below.

No formal action on downloadable collections was taken by the Committee.

Music

Cisneros expressed an interest in a one-year trial subscription to Freegal in the amount of \$5,210 (for 4,000 downloads) to be funded from the Per Capita Grant. Discussion followed.

Director Scheetz observed that each download would cost \$1.3025 compared to 99¢ per download from iTunes, a popular end-user service that is not available to libraries.

In response to a question from Trustee Jakubowski, discussion followed on whether the Library would charge a fee for this service.

The Committee expressed interest in receiving specific information about Freegal subscriptions, as well as information on libraries' experience with Freegal—and reaction to its business model.

Videos

Due to the lack of availability of high-demand, popular feature films, the Library will not provide downloadable videos at this time.

Audiobooks

The Library will continue to offer downloadable audiobooks.

eBooks

The Library will continue to offer downloadable e-books.

Director Scheetz noted the volatility of the e-book market and the burgeoning number of e-book readers entering the marketplace.

In response to a question, Cisneros reported that the service currently offered by the Library, eMediaLibrary, does not support the iPad or Amazon's Kindle, but does support Sony's Reader and Barnes & Noble's Nook, among others.

Director Scheetz noted that the popular e-book reader, Kindle, has a business model that excludes libraries. Cisneros reported that some libraries have developed a service model that violates the Kindle user agreement. Discussion followed.

The consensus of the Committee supported the administrative decision to not engage in illegal or unethical practices, such as those demonstrated by libraries that disregard the Kindle user agreement.

6. **Request to Add a Public Entrance from Batavia Avenue**

Director Scheetz reported that Joseph F. Marconi recently visited to renew his request for two new public entrances to the Library, one each from Batavia Avenue and Wilson Street. Director Scheetz agreed to bring the matter to the Board of Library Trustees.

Marconi expressed his intent to attend the next Board meeting. Director Scheetz invited him to the Committee meeting, as well.

Background Information

Director Scheetz provided background information, which was included in the Committee packet, as follows:

- From the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Library Trustees for Tuesday, 21 April 2009:

Joseph F. Marconi suggested that the Board of Library Trustees had promised the community that it would recycle Library visitors into the downtown business section.

To that end, he presented a request for the Board to consider adding two additional public entrances to the Library, one each from Batavia Avenue and Wilson Street. He presented a drawing he commissioned of such an entrance from Batavia Avenue adjacent to the civic lawn.

The request was assigned to the Standing Committee on Services for further review.

- From the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Standing Committee on Services for Thursday, 14 May 2009:

Director Scheetz reported that, at the April meeting of the Board of Library Trustees, Joseph F. Marconi presented a request for the Library Board to consider adding a public entrance to the Library from Batavia Avenue—and perhaps even Wilson Street.

In addition, the drawing submitted to the Library Board by Marconi was available for inspection. Discussion followed.

The consensus of the Committee was to deny the request, because the optimal design for a public library building requires a single ingress / egress point.

Director Scheetz noted that he followed up with Marconi in 2009 in a face-to-face meeting at Gammon Corner.

A wide-ranging discussion ensued, which encompassed the history of the building project as well as design and service issues related to Marconi's request.

The consensus of the Committee was to deny the request for the same reason as before (May 2009).

Director Scheetz noted that he would follow up with Marconi via the U.S. Postal Service so that he would have a written record of the reasons for the Committee's decision.

7. **Comments from the Committee**

There were no additional comments from the Committee.

8. **Next Meetings or Events**

- Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 17 August 2010, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- Staff Development Day (4th Friday in August), Friday, 27 August 2010, Library Closed (Scheduled Work Day for All Employees)*
- Library Card Sign-Up Month, September 2010 — launched in 1987 as a national campaign: "every child should obtain a library card"*
- Sunday before Labor Day, Sunday, 5 September 2010, Library Closed*
- Labor Day (1st Monday in September), Monday, 6 September 2010, Library Closed*

- f. *Standing Committee on Services, Tuesday, 7 September 2010, 6:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- g. *Regular Library Hours on Sunday Begin (12:00 noon–5:00 p.m.), Sunday, 12 September 2010*
- h. *Regular Meeting, Tuesday, 21 September 2010, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*

9. **Adjournment**

Motion by Trustee Jakubowski to adjourn the special meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sullivan.
All: Aye. The motion carried.

Trustee Gibson declared the meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

George H. Scheetz
Director