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## MINUTES

### Standing Committee on Outreach • Board of Trustees • Batavia Public Library District

#### *Special Meeting*

Tuesday • 4 August 2011

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Jakubowski called the meeting to order at 3:57 p.m. in the Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room of the Batavia Public Library.

2. **Call the Roll**

**Committee Members Present:** Virginia C. Babcock, Maureen A. Jakubowski, and Douglas S. Sullivan

**Committee Members Absent:** None

**Other Trustees Present:** None

**Staff Members Present:** Director George H. Scheetz, Stacey L. Cisneros, and Michele M. Martzel

**Visitors Present:** None

3. **Approve the Agenda**

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

4. **Approve the Minutes:** Special Meeting, Tuesday, 1 March 2011

Trustee Jakubowski asked whether there were any changes to the minutes.

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

5. **“Portrait of George Washington”**

Director Scheetz reported that the Library was offered a painting of George Washington as an outright gift from Andrea Lea Goudy of Batavia, Illinois. Pursuant to the “Policy on Art” (a copy of which was included in the Committee packet):

*In order to determine whether to accept gifts, bequests, or indefinite loans, or to purchase particular works of art, the Standing Committee on Art will review and evaluate such works of art and make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees on whether to proceed.*

Director Scheetz then reported, as follows:

- The oil painting is a copy of a portion of Gilbert Stuart’s famous unfinished portrait of George Washington (1796)—also known as “the Athenæum portrait”—which is jointly owned by the National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. (A picture of the Stuart painting was distributed at the Committee meeting.)
- The painting is by an unknown artist and is not dated.
- The painting is mounted in an older style frame with a gold finish, which may be paint or some type of gold leaf. Both painting and frame need conservation treatment.
- The Committee has several options, including but not limited to accepting the painting for the purpose of keeping and (perhaps) displaying it, not accepting the painting, accepting the painting for the purpose of selling it, or requesting the Library Director to have the painting evaluated and appraised.

Discussion followed on a variety of issues, including conditions on the gift—Director Scheetz reported that none were expressed by the donor—and the need for an evaluation of the painting.

Motion by Trustee Sullivan that the sense of the Committee was that the Library was willing to accept the painting for safekeeping, but was not prepared to invest in its restoration, and would not display it. Second by Trustee Babcock. All: Aye. The motion carried.

The Committee requested Director Scheetz to follow up with the donor and, if appropriate, arrange for an evaluation of the painting and its frame.

#### 6. **Comments from the Committee**

Director Scheetz and Cisneros displayed two items that were recently received back from the Graphic Conservation Co., including an original architect’s rendering of the D. C. Newton house—the Library’s long-time home (1921–1981)—and a 1919 photograph of Batavia’s World War I veterans taken in front of Batavia High School—now the site of the Library.

#### 7. **Next Meetings or Events**

- Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 16 August 2011, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- Staff Development Day (4th Friday in August), Friday, 26 August 2011, Library Closed (Scheduled Work Day for All Employees)*
- Library Card Sign-Up Month, September 2011 — launched in 1987 as a national campaign: “every child should obtain a library card”*
- Sunday before Labor Day, Sunday, 4 September 2011, Library Closed*
- Labor Day (1st Monday in September), Monday, 5 September 2011, Library Closed*
- Standing Committee on Outreach, Thursday, 8 September 2011, 7:30 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, 11 September 2011*
- h. *Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 20 September 2011, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- i. *Banned Books Week — Celebrating the Freedom to Read (since 1982), Saturday–Saturday, 24 September–1 October 2011 [Note: An eight-day week!]*
- j. *Columbus Day (Observed) (2nd Monday in October), Monday, 10 October 2011, Library Open*
- k. *Teen Read Week™ (3rd week in October), Sunday–Saturday, 16–22 October 2011 — launched in 1998 to encourage young adults to read for sheer pleasure as well as learning — 2011 Theme: Picture It @ your library®*
- l. *Board of Library Trustees (Regular Meeting), Tuesday, 18 October 2011, 7:00 p.m., Elizabeth L. Hall Conference Room, Batavia Public Library*
- m. *ILA Annual Conference (Rosemont), Tuesday–Thursday, 18–20 October 2011*

8. **Adjournment**

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

Trustee Jakubowski declared the meeting adjourned at 4:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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George H. Scheetz  
Director