

FLETT ROOM, BELMONT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
BELMONT, MASSACHUSETTS

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OCTOBER 17, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Shubin at 7:30 p.m. Present were Trustees Elaine Alligood, Mary Keenan, Larry McCormick, Heli Tomford, Director Maureen Conners, with guest observers: Virginia Jordan, Brian Saper, Ann Armstrong, Joanna Hilgenley, Grace Takvorian, and Richard Cheek, all from the Oakley Neighborhood Association.

Director Conners introduced Naomi Wilson, the new Children's Librarian.

Virginia Jordan of the Oakley Neighborhood Association (which has now obtained 501(c)3 charitable organization tax status) presented their newest version of their survey to identify Benton Library support. Trustees queried the group about their survey questions and made suggestions for improvement, reinforcing the need for clearly eliciting objective data about Oakley Neighborhood support for the Benton Branch. Additionally, the Trustees reinforced that the survey should clearly state that it is the product of the Oakley group for their use only and not endorsed by the Library. Likewise, the Trustees emphasized that they were stewards for the entire Town of Belmont and could not show bias for any neighborhood in the provision of library staff and services. Chairman Shubin reminded the guests that they should develop a proposal with suggestions detailing what changes they want to see in Benton's opening hours and what funding they can provide to make that happen. He said that the Trustees would review the proposal as part of the decision-making process for the next fiscal year.

New Business:

Warrant Committee is meeting tonight.

Director Conners introduced the Action Plan Draft for 2008. Trustees reviewed and discussed some of the key provisions and agreed to further study, individually, and to forward edits and suggestions to Director Conners in order for her to submit it to the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners by the MBLC deadline.

Director Conners suggested that the discussion of the Trust Fund Activity Report be held at the next meeting when all Trustees would be present. The Trustees present agreed to this.

Director Conners presented the new book group/reading program being developed by the Belmont Against Racism group. This project, One Book-One Read, is underwritten by the BAR and the book will be available for downloading. The first selection is to be "A Hope in the Unseen."

The Belmont Public Library will be doing its own One Town One Book program next year and are planning to apply for an MBLC grant to cover the initial project costs.

Old Business:

Old business was postponed until the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

Director Conners announced a lovely unsolicited surprise gift, from the estate of Mr. Charles Wilkins. A long time library user, Mr. Wilkins, of Belmont wanted to acknowledge the importance of the library to his entire life and so he made this generous unencumbered gift to the Library. Appropriate thank you letters will be written.

Library Fines: It was decided to postpone the discussion of Library fines that potentially could be increased, until the next Trustee's the next meeting.

Director's Report:

Personnel: Elizabeth Strachan is leaving the Library to take a professional librarian position in Braintree.

Director Connors presented a re-configuration of personnel funds to enable the Young Adult Librarian position to become full time. This full time position will enable the library to achieve a goal of many years that allows improved and expanded programming and reference support without requiring additional personnel funds.

Chairman Shubin moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15. The motion was seconded and approved.

NEXT MEETING --- TUESDAY NOVEMBER 14 --- at 7:00 p.m. in the Flett Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine C. Alligood, Secretary