

TOMPKINS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
NOVEMBER 24, 2009

TCPL Board members present: Henrik Dullea, President; Eric Acree, Thomas Colbert, Richard Driscoll, Nancy Schuler, Barbara Page, Rochelle Proujansky, Marcy Rosenkrantz, Christine Sanchirico, Michael Stamm, John Vineyard

Board members absent: Nathan Fawcett, Michael Hall

Also present: Rosemarie Rice, Assistant Director; Suzanne Smith Jablonski, Executive Director TCPL Foundation

Also absent: Susan Currie, Director; Jean Stewart, Library Secretary

Meeting convened at 4:27 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA DOC 09-143

Rochelle Proujansky asked that the Agenda be amended to include Action Item #4, Recommendation by the Nominating Committee to Extend Term of Board Members Michael Stamm and John Vineyard. Nominating Committee minutes from their November 11, 2009 meeting were added as DOC 09-154.

With these amendments, **MOTION** was made to approve the agenda. Carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PRESENTATION BY SARAH GLOGOWSKI

Sarah Glogowski was our guest speaker. Sarah gave an update on the Community Read. About a year ago Director Janet Steiner and Sarah were allowed to read

the short list of 5 titles for the Cornell freshmen read. They read and wrote a synopsis, collated their responses and sent their recommendations to the Provost. This is the first year that TCPL was included in the selection process. *Grapes of Wrath* was selected.

This year, Cornell reduced the program due to financial cuts. However, we still received 2000 copies, which Sarah was responsible for distributing. 1000 copies were given to the schools. The distribution varied from 25 copies to Groton to 200 to Ithaca City School District. They were most often used in AP and English classes, but also used in a biology class. 600 copies went to nonprofit organizations, Louis Gossett Center, and McCormick Center. 400 copies were placed into circulation in July.

The main program sponsored by the library was local author Philipp Meyer. His novel, *American Rust*, has been described as Steinbeckesque. He spoke about the comparisons to Steinbeck and his take on the great American novel. The second program, *Steinbeck and the Land: A Theatrical Performance* by Anthony Newfield was cancelled. Mr. Newfield was the understudy in a Broadway play and was called upon to perform.

Sarah worked with bookgroups by providing packets, offering training, or leading groups. She led book discussions for the Tompkins Trust Company, Office of the Aging, for the 4th year for a Country Club group, and for the 8th year for the Ithaca Downtown Business Women's group. Sarah and Sally Grubb have been asked back each year to the DBW.

President Dullea commended Sarah for her hard work putting together a wonderful Community Read.

ACTION ITEMS

With a minor wording change, **MOTION** was made by Proujansky, seconded by Vineyard, to approve the Minutes of October 27, 2009. Approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

In the absence of Fawcett, President Dullea stated: "I, President Henrik Dullea, in keeping with New York State Education Law, certify that I have reviewed all vouchers presented for payment, and that all disbursements are within the approved operating budget of the library, and therefore recommend that the Board of Trustees approve for payment of November bills in the amount of \$126,472.97 as outlined in Abstracts 33, 34 and 35. Approved unanimously.

Revised External Links Policy DOC 09-145

MOTION by Acree to approve the External Link Policy that was introduced to the board at the last meeting. Approved unanimously.

Recommendation by the Nominating Committee to Extend Term of Board Members Michael Stamm and John Vineyard DOC 09-154

The Nominating Committee made **MOTION** that Michael Stamm and John Vineyard be appointed for an additional three year term beginning 2010 to 2012. Approved unanimously.

FOUNDATION REPORT

Proujansky reported that the Annual Appeal is in full swing. A Public Information Table at the Avenue of the Friends will be staffed during the week of December 14 - 18, 2009 by Board of Trustees and Foundation Board members. Many thanks to those trustees who have already signed up. Others are encouraged to volunteer for a shift to greet the public, as there are still openings. Caroline Cox is coordinating the effort. Please contact her directly at: ccox@ithaca.edu.

Reminder: The job description for TCPL Trustees includes the requirement that all trustees contribute to the Library's Annual Appeal (and/or at another time of the year) at a personally meaningful level. It is important when applying to outside

funding sources to be able to share that, in addition to their significant contributions of time and energy, the Library's trustees all participate in financially supporting the Library.

Contributions to a fund honoring Janet Steiner have surpassed the \$5,000 threshold needed to create an endowed book fund.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Susan Currie, Assistant Director Rice reported that Susan is meeting with all staff and that morale is good. Staff have been very receptive and are looking to a new beginning. Our new volunteer coordinator is doing very well. Circulation is doing well keeping up with the carts. At the end of August several pages left to return to school or to move on in their careers, so we had vacancies and consequently, a backlog. These positions have been filled. These are not the positions which were frozen earlier this year.

Rice reviewed the incident reports and answered questions about the staff report.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Technology - Did not meet.

Library Services and Policy - November 4, 2009 minutes submitted in board packet.

Finance & Personnel - November 11, 2009 minutes submitted in board packet.

Public Information Committee - Rosenkrantz reported on the meeting held just prior to the Board meeting. Plans are under way to have a joint meeting with the Foundation Events and Marketing Committee and the Library Public Information Committee in early January. On the agenda will be a tour and a discussion on Library Lovers Month and content for elevator speeches.

A breakfast meeting to introduce Susan to the county legislators in January was discussed. A template similar to the Library Advisory Council includes a short presentation from Susan and then an opportunity to meet and greet her. Save the date cards will be sent out in December.

An additional discussion centered around the website and some concerns with the progress. It was recommended that Joyce Wheatley, the library webmaster, speak with Susan next week.

Library Art Acquisitions Committee - Barbara told the trustees that she and Susan met with David Paul and signed a contract for him to take the Beatrix Potter books and figurines. He waived the \$50 pickup fee and very kindly said he would pay the difference if the collection did not sell for the \$750 appraised amount. The collection will be auctioned on December 6th with various lots. This can be viewed on the National Book Auction's website.

The art committee will not need to meet except for a policy on commissioning work. The committee accomplished everything they set out to do this year. The art in the library has been documented, artists, descriptions, and pictures. This information has been sent to the insurance company and added to the disaster plan. Pictures of the art can be posted on the website.

Hank thanked Barbara for her leadership, a marvelous job.

Nominating committee - The Nominating committee is well on the way to filling two vacancies left by David Weil and Susan Currie. In addition, three people will be completing their terms and the committee is well on the way to filling these additional vacancies. The candidates' names will be brought to the December 15th board meeting. The applications for selected candidates will be sent to the County Legislature for approval in December. We will always need new nominations for board members, so please forward names to Rochelle for future consideration.

LIAISON REPORTS

Friends - October 8, 2009 minutes submitted in board packet. Marcy Rosenkrantz reported that the booksale went well. A very nicely done internal newsletter was sent to booksale volunteers.

Legislature - The board should request a liasion be appointed as soon as possible once the new legislature elects a chair.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Rosenkrantz,seconded by Acree at 5:27p.m.
Carried unanimously.

Recorded by Rosemarie Rice
Assistant Director

Endorsed by Thomas Colbert
Secretary of the Board