

Library Board Highlights February 12, 2008

- The Finance Committee is continuing to research investment strategies through readings, interviews and discussions and will report their recommendations to the Board.
- The Board will continue its deliberations about the Endowment in the context of its strategic planning and visioning for the future.
- The Audit Committee will evaluate the Auditor's recommendations and recommend a course of action to the Board.
- The Mayor requested that the FY 2009 budget increase be reduced from 7% to 4%, exclusive of full-time salaries. The Board voted that in order to achieve the reduction and still maintain the optimal level of service, the revised budget will include the elimination of Sunday hours; the bi-monthly mailing of the *Russell Reminder*; and the requested part-time positions except the Library Computer Technician (15 hours); Public Computer Assistant (6 hours), and Homework Helper (9 hours).
- The Board was reluctant to eliminate Sunday service and the requested positions, but recognized that there were no other areas where the necessary reductions could be made. It is hoped that the elimination of the request for a Teen Services Specialist will be made up by a pending grant application submitted by the Director for a Teen Librarian.
- The City Council Budget Hearing will be on March 19 and Board Members are encouraged to attend to support the Library's budget request.
- The Director reported that the Friends of the Library approved \$9,890 for furnishings, materials and programs and that grant applications have been submitted for provision of health information and teen services.
- The Director was reappointed to the City's Human Relations Commission.
- The Police banned a patron who has been disorderly.
- The updated ADA Audit was included in the Board Mailing.
- A cost estimate for the exterior sign was included in the mailing and will not be moved forward at this time because of the cost.
- The Board discussed the goal and logistics of a retreat in the spring. Among issues raised were the use of the unoccupied building on Broad Street, strategic planning, and the future of the Library 10-20 years from now. The Board concluded that these topics will require a series of meetings. The first one will be on Saturday, May 3 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. in the Board Conference Room. The Director was requested to invite resource people to address the question: ***"What should a public library look like in 2020 and what are the implications for Russell Library?"*** The Director will arrange for a lunch.
- Of interest for strategic planning purposes was the statistical report for July-December, indicating a reduction in the "door count" and circulation and a significant increase in remote access to the Library via computer as compared to the same period last year.
- The Assistant Director's Report noted especially drafting an inventory tagging and record keeping procedures as recommended by the auditor.
- The Board noted, with great regret, the death of Andrew Romegialli. He was respectfully remembered by the Board for his good will and professionalism as the union negotiator. President Shapiro will send a card of condolence to his family on behalf of the Board and a donation will be made in his memory to the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation.

Calendar:

Tuesday, March 11, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting.

Wednesday, March 19, City Budget Hearing

Saturday, May 3, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Board Workshop