

**DEARBORN DEPARTMENT OF LIBRARIES  
LIBRARY COMMISSION MEETING  
03/12/2010**

**1. ATTENDANCE**

In attendance were: Mr. Marcel Pultorak, Chairperson; Mrs. Nancy Zakar, Vice-Chairperson; Mrs. Candyce Abbatt, Mrs. Rachel Fawaz, Mr. Robert Taub, Mrs. Toni Straley, and Mrs. Sally Smith, Commissioners; Mrs. Maryanne Bartles, Library Director; Ms. Julie Schaefer, Deputy Library Director; Mr. Steve Smith, Administrative Librarian. Excused: Mrs. Jihan Jawad, Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. David Schlaff, Commissioner.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 12, 2010 Library Commission meeting were approved as submitted.

**3. FOUNDATION UPDATE-** Dearborn Library Foundation member Steve Schroeder spoke to the Library Commission. He reported that the Strategic Planning Committee of the Foundation is currently working on costing and revenue estimates for three potential long term fundraising projects. The committee should have a recommendation which event to pursue by May or June. An endowment fund has been established by the Foundation to work toward generating future revenue. The Foundation is also working on their second annual direct mail campaign in which we will send about 10,000 letters to Dearborn residents asking for their help in supporting the library. Over \$900 was raised from the latest Kroger Community Rewards program quarterly check to the Foundation which included the holiday shopping period. There is one more quarter remaining in the current program. We are not sure if Kroger will renew the program or not. Mr. Pultorak thanked Mr. Schroeder for his work and asked him to convey the same message to his colleagues on the Foundation board.

**4. BUDGET UPDATE-** Mrs. Bartles reported that the Commissioners have a copy of the budget book that was submitted to City Administration in their meeting packets. Mr. Pultorak stated that Mrs. Bartles did a fine job of writing the opening section describing what a library is and it includes quotes from some library patrons. Mrs. Bartles reported that Mayor has asked each department head to meet with him to discuss the budget. Mrs. Bartles will meet with the Mayor and the Finance Director this coming Monday afternoon. Mr. Pultorak advised that he will attend the meeting as well and will call the Mayor to advise him of this. Mr. Pultorak advised the members of the community in the audience that he was appointed to the Mayor's task force to advise City Administration on the current economic crisis. Mr. Pultorak explained that the City of Dearborn is facing a revenue shortfall next fiscal year of approximately \$20 million compared to this year. Our City Charter specifies the minimum staffing for the police and fire departments. There will need to be changes to City services as they are not sustainable at the current level and there will be further revenue declines for the City over the next two years because of declining property values. Mrs. Zakar asked if each department was required to submit a similar budget book. Mrs. Bartles advised that each City department submitted a budget book.

**5. INFORMATION ITEMS-**

- A. **Interlibrary Loan** – Mrs. Bartles reported that she spoke with OCLC and they are going to send a quote on what it would cost to restore the same type of interloan service that we had though The Library Network before they discontinued their interloan service. We would not be a full participating OCLC member but Mrs. Bartles does not wish to do anything like that until

we know the outcome of the budget for next year. Mrs. Bartles reported that The Library Network's (TLN) efforts to secure a one stop, OCLC supported, interlibrary loan service for Michigan are on hold.

- B. **HFCL ADA Compliant Family Restroom-** Ms. Schaefer reported that the new restroom is open and being used. Mr. Pultorak stated he saw a picture of the ribbon cutting of the new restroom in the library newsletter. Mr. Pultorak stated he thought that the newsletter was very well done again.
- C. **Plastic Bag and Earth Day target-April 22, 2010-** Mrs. Bartles reported we are phasing out plastic bags as of April 22, 2010. We have put signs to this effect at all library locations. We are advising patrons to bring their own bags, buy one of our new re-useable bags, which will be similar to the bags used at Westborn Market and be priced around \$2.50 per bag or buy a canvas library bag for \$5.

## **6. ACTION ITEMS-**

- 7. Comments-** Mrs. Bartles reported that she was approached by the Arab American National Museum to put up a display on the monotheistic religions on the second floor at Henry Ford Centennial Library. The display has information that is similar to what you could get from an encyclopedia and we have included books on all three of the monotheistic religions that are replenished as they are checked out. The display is strictly an informational overview and there is not proselytizing in the information. However, we have had three complaints and one compliment about the display. Mrs. Bartles replied to each of the complaint letters. Today is the last day of the display.

Library patron Marge Breyer commented that she was amazed when she read the Mayor's comments about the library in the newspaper. Ms. Breyer stated that the library has a lot of supporters in the community. She also suggested that when the library purchases plastic bags again that they consider partnering with a business in the community and they could put their advertising on the bag. Mrs. Bartles stated she thought about trying to partner with a business for the bags she just ordered but we are trying to get sponsors for our services brochure right now so the timing was bad for this year.

Library patron Mary Jo Durivage asked the Commission what their response would be to the Mayor's comments in the paper. Mr. Pultorak stated that he will advocate for the library but we will be very hard pressed to keep things going the way they have been. There was discussion relating to the Mayor's comments and the budget crisis as well how the Commission and patrons should respond.

Mr. Pultorak will draft a letter to the editor on behalf of the Commission and email it to the Commission for review.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15PM.