

**THE FERGUSON LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 19, 2002**

Present:

Board Members: T. Cassone, Chair; E. Abate; J. James; R. King;
H. Romanowitz; D. Russell; W. Warrick

Citizen Advisers: K. Sample

Staff: E. DiMattia; A. Knapp; G. Nichols; C. Karwoski

Minutes

The minutes of the December 17, 2001 meeting were approved as presented.

President's Report

Mr. DiMattia introduced Alice Knapp, Director of Public Services, and Carolyn Karwoski, Adult & Readers Services Supervisor, who demonstrated the new Books 'N More section of the Library's Website. From his monthly reports, Mr. DiMattia highlighted the Homework Centers located at the Main Library and Bennett Branch, the Main Library's elevator upgrade, and the Assistant Fire Marshall's presentation at the January staff meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. DiMattia, reporting for Ms. Broom, informed the Board that through January 31, 2002, operating revenues exceeded budget by \$35,196, and operating expenses were \$58,894 over budget.

Executive Committee

Mr. Cassone reported that the Executive Committee met on February 19 and that the matters discussed by the Committee would be considered during the Board meeting.

Pension Committee

Ms. James reported that, on February 19, the Pension Committee met with the Pension Plan Investment Manager. As of December 31, 2001, the portfolio had assets of \$7.61 million, of which 62% was invested in equities and 38% were held in fixed income securities and cash. Ms. James noted that Mr. Nichols was also present at the meeting and reviewed several pension issues that have been discussed as part of the labor contract negotiations.

Friends of Ferguson

Ms. Sample presented the Library's "Wish List" submitted to the Friends to support various activities. The Friends-operated Bookstore at the Bennett Branch generates nearly as much revenue as the Main Library Bookstore. The Friends are losing key volunteer members, including Gilda Axiotakis, Chair of the Main Library's Bookstore. Mrs. Sample announced that two authors (Lisa Belkin and Mary Ann Hoberman) are committed for the upcoming Book & Arthur Luncheon.

2002-2003 Capital Budget

Mr. DiMattia reported that the Planning Board is expected to vote on February 19 on its final capital budget for 2002-2003. It is expected to include funding for the Main Library renovation, computer network and infrastructure, roof repairs, and façade restoration. Funding for the Weed Branch renovation/expansion is currently included in the 2003/04 and 2004/05 capital budgets. The Library received word that State Representative and Speaker of the House Moira Lyons is exploring possible state funds for this project.

Appointment of New Trustees

Mr. Cassone announced that Mayor Malloy has appointed Kathryn Emmett, Esq. to a five-year term on the Board of Trustees, to replace Brenden Leydon, Esq. Her term will expire in 2006.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the Executive Committee to approve the final contract with the Ferguson Library Employees Bargaining Unit.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Juanita T. James
Secretary