

**THE FERGUSON LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
February 28, 2007**

Present:

Board Members: G. Caggainello, Chair; E. Abate; T. Cassone;
G. Cohen; M. Lyons; D. Monsma; M. Sommer; D. Williams

Citizen Advisers: J. Rinaldi

Staff: E. DiMattia; N. Bochicchio; A. Knapp; G. Nichols

Guests: D. Reda; D. Russell

Mr. Caggainello called the meeting to order.

Minutes

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2006 Board of Trustees meeting.

Treasurer's Report

Mr. Reda reviewed the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2006. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as presented.

Mr. Reda also discussed the audited financial statements for the Ferguson Library Employees Pension Plan for the same period. A motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the report as presented

Mr. Williams commented on financial operations for the first seven-months of the fiscal year, noting some variances in revenues and expenses.

President's Report

Mr. DiMattia reviewed his December report, focusing, in particular, on communications activities, the Library's plans to celebrate its 125th Anniversary, and the survey of passport applicants. From his January report, he commented on the Weed Branch activity, the upcoming Big Read program, and changes experienced in providing reference services.

Executive Committee

Mr. Caggainello reported that the Executive Committee met on February 28, 2007. In addition to discussing the matters to be brought before this meeting, they also reviewed the status of the expense accruals through the end of January.

Building Committee

Mr. Williams indicated that the Building Committee met on February 26th and reviewed the status of the Main Library renovation project. A preliminary cost analysis of the project prepared by the construction manager indicates that the anticipated cost of the project as designed by the architect exceeds the budget. The construction manager and the Library's construction consultant have embarked on a thorough review of the project costs to determine what modifications can be made to bring the project within the scope of planned revenues.

Regarding the Weed Branch Renovation and Expansion Project, Mr. Williams noted that the general contractor has filed for mediation regarding punchlist and retainage claims against the Library. The project architect, construction consultant and library management are preparing a response to the mediation request.

Pension Committee

Mr. Cassone reported that the Pension Committee met on February 27th and reviewed the audit of the pension plan, received a report from the investment manager on the plan's portfolio, and discussed the proposed settlement of pension issues in the new bargaining unit contract. A motion was made, seconded and approved to adopt the changes in the pension plan set forth in a memo dated February 27, 2007 prepared by Mr. Nichols.

Personnel Committee

Mr. Abate indicated that the Personnel Committee met on February 28th and received a detailed update on the current negotiations with the employees bargaining unit on settlement of a new contract.

Friends of Ferguson Library

Mrs. Rinaldi provided information on recent gifts the Friends made to support various library collections and activities, notably downloadable videos, the Big Read, and staff scholarships. She noted that the Friends membership now exceeds 500. The Friends' Literacy Competition for area

students had twice the entries this year as in the past, and the Friends Book Shops were recently honored by the Connecticut Department of Corrections for providing reading material to state prisons. Year-to-date book shop revenue is \$114,000, an increase of 27% over last year.

Other Business

Mr. DiMattia reported on the status of the City's review of the 2007 – 2008 operating and capital budget requests.

Ernest N. Abate, Esq.
Secretary