

DEWITT COMMUNITY LIBRARY
September 8, 2011 Board Meeting

Present: Susan Katzoff (presiding), Joanne Chamberlain, Wendy Ressler, Wendy Scott, Director, Rosalie Young, Cindy Vinciguerra, Sybil Schultz, Elaine Ryan, Michael Vaughan, Hayley Schultz, Andrew Ursino, Dr. Renee Franklin Hill, Barb McClure, Steve Lux

Absent: Kathy Brodsky, Leigh Neumann

Guests: None

Recording: Cindy Vinciguerra

Call to order (Susan Katzoff). The meeting was called to order at 5:31 pm.

Approval of the Minutes of August 18, 2011

The August 2011 meeting minutes of the Dewitt Community Library Board were approved. The motion was made by Joanne Chamberlain and seconded by Mike Vaughan; passed unanimously.

New Business:

Reports of Officers – Mike Vaughan

A motion was made by Mike Vaughan to authorize the temporary transfer of funds from the restricted fund to the operating fund to cover short term cash needs until the receipt of the school tax check. If short term borrowing is needed then the amounts shall be repaid to the restricted fund upon receipt of the 'school tax' check. Andrew Ursino seconded the motion. Wendy Ressler opposed. Motion was passed.

Strategic Planning Committee – Rosalie Young

Strategic planning committee has created a draft of a revised Mission Statement, Vision Statement along with the DCL's commitment to core values. The Board is asked to review the statements and then discuss with the motion to approve or disapprove in October.

A report was given to the Board on location preferences from surveys, focus groups and Board discussions.

Mall Location: Respondents were equally divided between those who love the mall and those who intensely dislike the mall location. 60% of those in the oral survey came to the mall only to use the library.

The greatest concern was for accessibility. Mothers with strollers and seniors were especially concerned with crossing two lanes of traffic to enter the mall and sometimes having long walks if the mall was busy and parking lot was crowded. Others noted that they used other libraries because they were more convenient to their homes or easier to access (being able to just walk inside). There were some requests for more handicap parking.

Patrons, friends and board members were interested in more space, more meeting rooms and more comfortable spaces, especially for children. They wanted space that would be appealing, including windows to the outside. They also wanted more accessible bathrooms, more meeting rooms and the possibility of a kitchen.

Travel to the library: Most, 98% of those in the formal survey came to the library by car, either driving themselves or getting a ride. 1% came by bus and 1% walked. In the informal, oral, grab them as they enter the library door survey, 90% came by car, 7% by bus, 2.5% walked and one came by bicycle.

Library Trends, researched by Wendy Scott indicated that libraries are focusing on homey environments, green spaces, more meeting rooms, specific theme areas. (seniors, teens, children, etc.).

Facilities Committee: Wendy Ressler

The Property Under Discussion

Pros and Cons

Pros:

Equidistant to each of the 3 elementary schools in the district
Centrally locate in our charter to serve area
Accessible location on 2 major streets and near highway
Highly visible
Low price – very affordable for the amount of land available
Currently available and owner anxious to sell
It is a lovely setting for a library, looking out on green areas
Near a golf course, dentist, vet.

Cons:

It's not in the area of DeWitt that some see as the "center of town"
Not on the bus line
No other retail within walking distance (but is on the way to a lot of places for many of the area residents)
Would require demolition and removal of 4 structures

Wendy Scott expressed concerns that the proposed site is not currently on a bus line, making it difficult for residents without cars (i.e., those most likely to have the fewest resources) to take advantage of Library services. She added that the American Library Association recommends that access to public transportation is an important consideration when choosing a library site.

Andrew Ursino suggested that the Library could investigate means of providing public transportation to the site.

Barb McClure made a motion to put a purchase offer in on the Property Under Discussion, contingent on a land study, an environmental study, specifically looking at the cost that it would be to develop a library that meets our needs. Rosalie Young seconded the motion.

Unanimously approved.

Barb McClure made a motion that we would be willing to put a purchase offer in of no more than \$200,000 to buy the Property Under Discussion and to put down no more than \$15,000 non-refundable retainer contingent on the studies. Mike Vaughan seconded.

Unanimously approved.

Vote on how much money to spend on a site study.

Professional assessment of many site factors that would directly impact the development of a library:

Susan Katzoff made a motion to the Board to approve up to \$7,000 be allocated up to a site study on the the Property Under Discussion) property study to be done in 45 days. For a cost analysis that's to be done deemed by Ed Kiesa or other real estate agent. Sybil seconded. Unanimously approved.

Nominating Committee: Presented by Steve Lux

We are currently 15 Board members. We intend to nominate enough board members to fill to 17 positions. Of the remaining 15 Board members only one cannot run for reelection, Mike Vaughan.

Director's Report – Wendy Scott (to be emailed by month's end)

Old Business

- A. Mr. Solomon does not live in our charter to serve area and continues to call Susan Katzoff.

Public Comment: None

Adjournment: The motion to adjourn was made by Susan Katzoff and seconded by Andrew Ursino Meeting was adjourned at 6:47 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Vinciguerra, (Graciously filling in for Kathy Brodsky, Secretary)