

**Charles A. Ransom District Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes  
March 24, 2009 7:00 pm**

Members present: Heed, Keeney, Kline, Prentice, Asselmeier, Davis and Director Bell-Moore

Members absent: Haan

Special guests invited by Asselmeier: Plainwell High School Journalism class members Lennie Parsons and Jordan Vincent with video recording equipment to record Board meeting.

Meeting was called to order by President Asselmeier at 7:05 p.m.

No special agenda items

**Minutes:** Minutes of February 17, 2009 Board meeting were reviewed. Kline/Keeney motion to accept minutes with correction of spelling of Burchfield. Carried by all.

**Financial Report:** The Board approved the following Budget transfers:

\$3,083 from 7083 (Capital Outlay-Computers) to 7023 (M&R Snow Removal)

\$458 from 7063 (Purchased Services – Legal Fees) to 7023 (M&R Snow Removal)

This covers the snowplow cost for the year.

\$670 from 7010 (AV) to 7030 (Supplies – Cleaning)

\$251 from 7038 (Supplies – Children's Teens) to 7032 (Supplies – Office)

7092 (Automation – New Software) The refund check arrived in March, so is not reflected yet on this statement.

Board reviewed received financial report with comments by Director who is observing mileage income very closely from City of Plainwell, Gun Plain Twp., and Cooper Twp. She reports State Aid will be coming but is currently "backlogged". Snow plow budget bid was exceeded due to our heavy winter snows. Board questions answered by Director including Prentice's questions about contributions and "other" income such as refund check from Burnham & Flower Insurance Co. Prentice questioned Building Restoration Balance etc. (requests amount of interest in % rate)

**President's Report:** President Asselmeier reminds board members to keep in tune with Policy and limit excessive comments and conversation during this meeting.

**Director's Report:** (See attached)

**Budget:** Chairperson Gelbaugh reports on meeting scheduled for Sunday March 22, 2009. (Present were Asselmeier and Davis)

**Building and Grounds:** Chairperson Davis- No meeting to report. Asselmeier comments on current request he made of Blair Bates Building Restoration. We are awaiting an estimate regarding back entry repair.

**Endowment:** Chairperson Prentice commented on timely advice he was given by Jim Meles of Edward Jones Co. regarding long term CD's.

**Personnel:** Chairperson Prentice made general comments regarding evaluation of Director. In his view this evaluation tool should reflect a chance for personnel improvement and growth and our form should be a method of evaluating effectively. He was not pleased with other board member's responses including no responses at all to too high of an evaluation.

**Public Relations:** Chairperson Kline reported on March 17, 2009 3 pm meeting. Present were Davis and Director Bell-Moore. A public reception/gathering is planned for April 16, 2009 with refreshments to be catered, served by Friends. Power Point program will be on-going then. Officials from Governmental Units are to be invited.

Approximately 40 persons expected with significant others.

Trustee comments:

Gelbaugh - Pleased with Mosaic Art display currently in the Burchfield Room.

Kline – Attended Otsego's open house for their new Library and shared map of new site with Board. He observed they have more computers available than we do here, and was impressed by the new building.

Comments from public: No comments.

**Continued Business:**

**Update on rear slab repairs:** Asselmeier reports need to advertise in 2 local newspapers with a two week window for submissions.. etc. according to Board policy. Estimated \$15,052 from Building Restoration cost was shared by e-mail to Board members by Asselmeier. Davis requested a "hard copy" for Building and Grounds Committee.

**2<sup>nd</sup> reading, Personnel Policies:** Hiring and Wage Administration Method terms of appointment (look up number and corrected language) Motion to accept policy #1 Davis/Keeney. No further discussion. Passed unanimously. #2 Policy – No changes. Second reading personnel policy. Motion Keeney/Kline, passes unanimously.

**Mural Project:** First phase completed in Children's Area. Second phase of mural was started. Asselmeier stated this action violated rules in Trustee Handbook and then read from handbook about roles and responsibilities of Board Members. General comments by trustees:

Asselmeier – To start the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of mural without specific Board approval disenfranchised the citizens we represent. There are no gray areas, Board members are patrons only and should not act alone unless majority of Board has expressed authority.

Gelbaugh – Agreed with Asselmeier and disappointed it was started before Board expressed approval.

Keeney – Feels he does not participate due to work limitations and was surprised coming to the building tonight that it had been started. He wanted to wait until we find out back door repair costs first. (Asselmeier pointed out there are no costs to the Library for mural from public funds.)

Heed – Missed last meeting. On a recent trip to Florida she saw other murals and this artist work at our library was better than any she'd seen on her travels to Disney.

Kline – Favorable comments on mural project. He thought it would be started later.

Prentice – Read a 3 page personal letter to the Board with comments critical of trustee Davis and art in library in general, especially the mural project. Expressed second thoughts about his previous approval of grant application and funding methods. (Prentice was asked for a copy of his written comments to be put into the meeting minutes, and he refused)

Davis – Reports she had attended a personnel meeting with Prentice and Asselmeier March 14, 2009 and had explained to both trustees how and why she rationalized starting the second stage of the mural by artist Conrad Kaufman early. Davis apologized to the Board for the stress and discord she caused by impulsive actions she felt were justified because Board approval had been granted to apply for the funding from Michigan Council for the Arts on this 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the mural. Davis reviewed the history of the mural project from Building and Grounds Survey, travels to other libraries, and interaction with other library activists at the Michigan Library Association Conference this past fall, "Art in the Library" projects in other communities, Grant Writing Workshops she attended in behalf of this library, and the approval and endorsement of many community members and organizations for the entire mural project. Davis pledged to continue to serve her term on the Board until 2012 representing Gun PlainTwp. with the best interest of all the people who are using the library.

Asselmeier – Stated there are 3 options of action at this stage. 1) Paint out the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase mural. 2) Leave it as is, partially finished. 3) Finish the mural. He further stated "this is not a punitive Board. We should think what is best for the library." Kline moved to continue forward and continue the mural with funds dispersed by our Director.

Motion seconded by Davis. (A time out was requested to view the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the mural by Heed, Keeney, Prentice)

Discussion: Klein wants to move forward. Asselmeier wants to consult Roberts Rules of Order regarding when those opposed speak. Prentice objects to the way the mural was done, doesn't like it next to fireplace, but no objection to pillar being painted. It is "too busy" from his viewpoint and doesn't like funding arrangement. Gelbaugh – no comment.

Heed – Doesn't want to move forward. Keeney – No comment to this motion but thinks there are more important matters than the mural to fund.

Prentice – The first mural was positive, but the second mural will say to the public, who doesn't realize funding was donated, that the library has plenty of money.

Asselmeier – Has had 100% favorable responses to the mural, does not favor painting over the art work. Said conversation with Haan also in favor of mural (Haan not present at meeting) Kline – Commented on Prentice's suggestion about funding.

Keeney – Asks what Bell-Moore's opinion of mural project is, and how did we get to this point? Bell-Moore – Stated she loves the mural. While she understands Prentice's point, she supports Asselmeier's comments about not destroying art and feels not proceeding will compound unfinished issue in the "public's eyes".

Roll Call Vote on motion to proceed with mural phase 2.:

Heed – No Keeney – No Gelbaugh – No Kline – Yes Prentice – No Asselmeier – Yes Davis – Yes

Vote fails 4 – 3. Prentice states he wants time to give this issue some thought until the next meeting about what to do next.

**Charging for computer class:** This motion passed at last Board meeting but after some investigation and thought by Director and Board members, is to be reconsidered tonight.. Motion by Davis to rescind previous motion to charge for computer use at the library. Gelbaugh second. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote: Keeney – Yes

Heed – Yes Prentice – Yes Klein – No Gelbaugh – Yes Davis – Yes Asselmeier – Yes

Motion passed 6 – 1.

**New Business:** Liability insurance renewal . Director reports we have not yet received current quote and this will have to wait until our April meeting.

Motion to adjourn: Klein/Keeney. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.

Minutes submitted by Pat Davis, for Secretary Haan