



**MEETING MINUTES**  
**EVANSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Wednesday, June 17, 2015  
6:30 PM

Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Avenue, Board Room

**Members Present:** Diane Allen, Tori Foreman, Shawn Iles, Margaret Lurie, Vaishali Patel, Benjamin Schapiro, Michael Tannen

**Members Absent:** Leora Siegel, Sandra Smith

**Staff:** Karen Danczak Lyons, Connie Heneghan, Paul Gottschalk, Jessica Ticus

**Presiding Member:** Michael Tannen, President

**CALL TO ORDER/DECLARATION OF QUORUM** - A quorum was present and President Tannen called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**CITIZEN COMMENT** – none

**CONSENT AGENDA** – Vaishali Patel moved, and Diane Allen seconded, a motion to approve the consent agenda consisting of the minutes of the May 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, the bills list and payroll.

**INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS** – President Tannen reflected on librarian Brian Wilson’s selection to the prestigious Caldecott Award Selection Committee. This is a great honor and reflects well on EPL.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – Director Danczak Lyons reviewed highlights of her monthly report (see report attached):

- She will be attending the dedication of the Gibbs- Morrison Cultural Center at 1823 Church Street on June 20. EPL will provide books for lending and work with the staff on programming.
- City Council approved the appointment of Socorro Clarke as a new Library Trustee. They also selected the consulting firm CCS to conduct a fundraising feasibility study regarding the construction or renovation of the Robert Crown Center. They will conduct 50-75 interviews with potential donors over the next 90 days.
- The summer reading program is off to a great start with enroll expected to top 3000 by the end of the week.

## STAFF REPORTS

- A. Neighborhood Services Presentation** – Connie Heneghan, the Neighborhood Services Manager, gave an overview of activities at the North Branch and CAMS. The North Branch has recently been painted and the bathrooms updated. Both branches are participating in the summer reading program and various programs to meet community needs such as the Tail Wagging Tutors, Book Groups and story time in Spanish. Ms. Heneghan's presentation is attached.
- B. Administrative Services Report** – Paul Gottschalk reported that the building's weather-proofing project is nearly complete. The City Council approved the engineering and design for the parking garage, to be funded by the City's Parking Fund.

## BOARD REPORTS

- A. Development Committee** – Margaret Lurie discussed the feasibility study for the Robert Crown Center project and asked members for recommendations of potential people to be interviewed by CCS consultants. Jessica Ticus reviewed a tentative timeline for the Fund for Excellence annual appeal.
- B. Facilities Committee:** Benjamin Schapiro reported the heating and air-conditioning bids were discussed and a proposal will be brought to the Board for approval in July.
- C. District 65 Board Liaison:** Vaishali Patel commented that the video about the summer reading program was well received by schools.

## NEW BUSINESS

- A. Election of Library Board Officers:** Benjamin Schapiro motioned to approve the 2015-16 slate for Board officers: Michael Tannen, President; Sandra Smith, Vice President; Benjamin Schapiro, Treasurer; Margaret Lurie, Secretary. Tori Foreman seconded the motion and all voted in favor of the slate.
- B. Recognition of Retiring Trustee Diane Allen:** Michael Tannen read a proclamation of thanks and tribute to Diane Allen and thanked her for her years of service. The proclamation is attached to these minutes.
- C. Closed Session** – review and approval of the Closed Session Minutes was tabled until the July 15 meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT** Benjamin Schapiro moved, second by Diane Allen– adjournment of the meeting. The motion passed on a voice vote. Adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Margaret Lurie, Secretary

**Library Director's Report**

**June 17, 2015**

**Updates:**

- Our Summer Reading Program *Read to the Rhythm* is off to a great start: participation is trending ahead of last year and the addition of the “read to me” option which encourages parents and older siblings to read to the preschoolers is a very popular addition. Please refer to the patron comments section at the end of the report for some early feedback from participants. If our pilot at the Parks camps is successful this year, we hope to expand the program to the camps throughout the City in 2016. The Summer Reading Program and children’s crafts and activities will be brought on a regularly scheduled basis to: Robert Crown Community Center, James Park, Fleetwood Jordain and Mason Park. Teen services librarians will bring activities for teens grades 6 through 12 to Mason and James Parks on a regularly scheduled basis.

In addition, books can be checked out at the Book Bike in conjunction with Summer Food Services Programs at: Fleetwood Jourdain, Mason and James Parks and Robert Crown in conjunction with the Summer Food Services Programs. Jill reported that yesterday she checked out 13 books and created two library cards while at Mason Park.

*Snapshot of the program provided by Jan Bojda:*

As of this moment we have a total of 2,830 readers of all ages registered. 21,233 points have been earned by all.

Children’s participants: 1,791

Teens: 351

Adults 668

My most recent anecdote, second hand, involves a visit from one the YMCA camps. Phoebe Metz and Jasmine Abron were prepared with a simple craft and Chromebooks to register the kids for summer reading. As Phoebe was beginning to explain how to join one little boy raised his hand to say he had seen the “commercial” and new how to join. He proceeded to recite the entire script from Laura and Kim’s summer reading film and Phoebe and Jasmine how much he liked it. He had watched it multiple times.

The numbers above do not include summer camp numbers for the camps at Fleetwood and Robert Crown that are playing the specially designed group version. I am still hoping the kids program individual registration will break 2000 before the end of June. The weather isn’t doing us many favors in this regard.

Also want to add that we (children's staff) have, I would estimate, registered more than half of the adult participants and probably a quarter of the teen participants. Thanks to you, Paul and the library board for finding the way to fund our extra summer help.

- Evanston Public Library has received a \$15,000 grant to host The Big Read, a program of the National Endowment for the Arts. We are one of 75 nonprofit organizations nationwide to receive a grant to host the community reading program between this September and May 2016. The Big Read in Evanston will focus on "Into the Beautiful North" by Luis Alberto Urrea. The novel is set in the highly charged world of the U.S.--Mexico border which Urrea, the son of an American mother and Mexican father, considers as a place of connection as well as divide.

Evanston Public Library will host a Big Read kick-off event in September to introduce the program, give away books and celebrate with a cultural performance. Several book discussions throughout the community, lectures from Northwestern professors, a film series, Mexican crafts and story-times for children, and multi-media projects for teens will be included in The Big Read.

Partnerships with school districts 65 and 202, as well as with the City of Evanston and local senior facilities will encourage all of Evanston to participate in The Big Read.

The Big Read provides communities nationwide with the opportunity to read, discuss, and celebrate one of 37 selections from U.S. and world literature. It is designed to restore reading to the center of American culture.

- The Evanston Public Library has been selected to receive a \$3,000 programming grant for *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has generously provided support for 203 libraries, museums, historical societies, cultural and community organizations and other nonprofits nationwide to participate in this program. *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History*, produced by NEH and the American Library Association (ALA), is part of an NEH initiative, The Common Good: Humanities in the Public Square. The project will feature the PBS documentary series *LATINO AMERICANS*, a production of WETA Washington, DC; Bosch and Co., Inc.; and Latino Public Broadcasting (LPB), as a public programming cornerstone.
- The Book Sale Volunteers added a 4<sup>th</sup> sale to the schedule this year. The June book sale raised \$13,946. All funds raised through the sale are used to purchase new materials for our libraries.
- My thanks to Jill Skwerski for creating this program: On Saturday, June 6<sup>th</sup> the Library hosted a Veterans Resource Fair. All told, we had 15 service providers, including representatives from the Evanston Vets Center, Upward Bound, American Legion Post 42, Army Once Source, Midwest Palliative and Hospice Care Center, Northeastern IL University, Project Welcome Home Troops, and Volunteers of America. Additionally, the Mobile Vet Center was present for the duration of the event in the surface lot. An estimated 35 participants attended the fair, all of whom had heard of the event through promotion or invitation and came seeking specific

services or information about services. Overall, participants were very pleased with the event and felt the number of attendees was terrific for the first Vets event held at the Library. Evanston Vet Center Outreach Specialist James Harkins then visited the Library for what is now his regular monthly visit, where he staffs a table in the lobby area. He conveyed that he had 25 visitors in the 3 hours he was in the lobby and had scheduled 7 follow up visits. This is his 4th visit to the Library and he feels he is now established to the point where people are seeking him out and scheduling appointments.

- Robert Crown update: At the June 15<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, the City Council authorized the City Manager to execute a consulting services agreement for fundraising at the Robert Crown Community Center with Community Counselling Services Co., LLC for a total cost of \$477,500. The first phase of the project – a feasibility study that should be concluded in approximately 90 days will require the consultant to interview between 50 and 75 interviews with individual potential donors.
- On June 3<sup>rd</sup> we banded our 4 peregrine falcon chicks. Over 150 falcon enthusiasts attended the event.

Two of the chicks were named through our annual contest: Roycemore School third-graders Macy O'Donnell and Maddie Farbman were responsible for the naming of one of the birds: Shomigomy. The name goes with an imaginary mythical feature the two thought up several years ago. Xemxija (pronounced Shem-she-ya) was selected by Christopher Whittington. The name of a town in Malta famous for its peregrine falcons, it stands for "sunny and bright."

The third chick was named in honor of our retiring Trustee Dee Dee Allen. The chick named for Dee Dee was particularly active and fierce during the banding ceremony.

The final chick was named after our beloved Gigi. Her parents, husband, sister and son were in attendance. The family was pleased with the ceremony and this tribute to Gigi's memory.

- 3D printing workshop for adults – Ben Remsen with support from Ashley Hamernik produced two 3D printing workshops for adults. 29 enthusiastic participants enjoyed learning about the capabilities of 3D printers and look forward to the day that the Evanston Public Library regularly allows adults to access 3D printing here. As a reminder, through the generosity of a local 3D printing company, a 3D printer was donated to our teen space, The Loft.
- We hosted the Sheila von Weiss Mack piano dedication and concert on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. The baby grand piano was donated to the library by her friend, violinist David Yonan. Working with Sheila's family and friends, David organized a concert which followed the dedication of the piano. The piano is housed in the large community room at the main library.

**Assessments, metrics and initiative results:**

Foot traffic: May, 2015	April, 2015
Main: 43,054	44,306

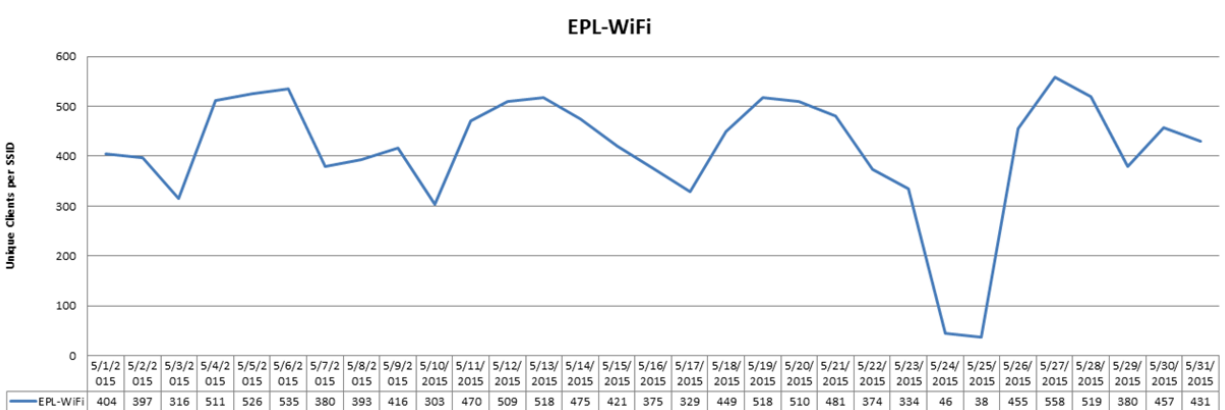
North: 3,896 3,879  
 CAMS: 4,291 4,148  
 Total: 51,241 52,333

Website visits in April: 47,426 May: 45,343

Overall Computer/Internet Use – all locations: April: 6,638 May: 6,679

Wi-Fi usage – all three locations for April: 12,686 May: 16,228

Please see below for summary of daily connections to EPL wireless network.



**Services and collaborations:**

- Special thanks to Barb Levie and Connie Heneghan for continuing our collaboration on the Senior Spelling Bee. Out of a field of 16 entrants, Gary Wisby won the regional Senior Spelling Bee competition held in Park Ridge. Gary had come in second at the local Evanston bee held last month at the Levy Center. The winning word was CERULEAN\*. Gary will go on to compete in the state bee held at the state fair in Springfield on Seniors' Day, Aug. 17th.

**Children's Services highlights include:**

- Our Chinese Dragon Boat Festival/Chinese book collection was a success. 106 children and parents attended. We collected around 80 donated books in Chinese. Jessica Iverson assisted Martha Meyer and learned some songs in Chinese and was an extra set of hands the day of the event.



- TWI 2nd Grade Literacy Celebration:

Laura Antolin was contacted and asked to come to the TWI 2nd Grade Literacy Celebration at Willard on May 14 to talk about the Summer Reading Program. She brought Jose along with her and asked him to translate and to book talk a couple of high interest Spanish-language books. Laura thought this could be a good way for Jose to start to connect with some families. The event was well attended with lots of families. We promoted summer reading and Jose talked about 2 folk tales. Several parents asked questions about Summer Reading and our collection at Main and I brought Summer Reading flyers to this event.

Attendance = 77

- May ½ Day STEAM Program at YMCA Learning Center:

We decided to make ArtBots for this STEAM program. Laura worked with 4 different groups – Kindergarten, 1st graders, 2nd graders, and 3rd graders. Christina Earle purchased materials and Laura brought extras. We set up in a classroom and the groups came to us for a ½ hour each – Laura gave instructions and then the kids worked with the help of their teachers. Some of the toothbrushes were difficult to take apart and it was somewhat chaotic but everyone was interested and excited and every kid went home with a finished product.

Attendance = 92

**Teen Services highlights include:**

- The D65 middle school librarians are planning a Teen Lit Festival for 2016 in partnership with EPL and the Bookstall. EPL will host this event at the main library in January, 2016. More details will be provided in the coming months.
- Chute 6th Grade Orientation
- Kayla staffed a table at the Chute 6th grade orientation and was able to touch base with over 100 incoming 6th graders and their parents. She shared information about summer programming and summer reading.
- Haven: Renee presented 22 book talks/Summer Reading Program presentations to Haven 7 and 8 graders; book talks and presentation was well received.

**Upcoming events of note:**

- Evanston Public Library is pleased to feature a selection of programs to honor the 50th Anniversary of the North Shore Summer Project, a community effort organized to call attention to segregated housing practices on Chicago's North Shore and to influence realtors to show homes to a diverse array of people.

The project culminated in a visit by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to Winnetka in July of 1965 where he spoke on the Village Green to thousands of people on discriminatory housing practices, civil rights, and race. Said King at that rally,

“Every white person does great injury to his child if he allows that child to grow up in a world that is 2/3 colored and yet live in conditions where that child does not come into person-to-person contact with colored people.”

The Library will host a panel discussion on Evanston's history of fair and affordable housing in partnership with Open Communities, an organization whose roots can be traced to the North Shore Summer Project.

Thursday, June 25, 7:00 pm, *Becoming A Welcoming Community 50 Years Later*. Speakers will be Gail Schechter from Open Communities, John Fuller of the Evanston NAACP, Lin Ewing of North Shore-Barrington Association of Realtors, and Sarah Flax, Evanston Housing and Grants Administrator

There will also be three summer book discussions addressing civil rights, discrimination, and segregation.

Tuesday, June 16, 7:00 pm, African American Literature Discussion: *Stokely*. A groundbreaking biography of Stokely Carmichael, non-violent activist turned Black Power revolutionary.

Wednesday, June 17, 7:00 pm, History Book Discussion: *Devil in the Grove*. A gripping account of Thurgood Marshall's legal defense of four young black men falsely accused of rape.

Wednesday, July 15, 7:00 pm, History Book Discussion: *Family Properties*. Historian Beryl Satter tells the story of how Chicago became the most segregated city in the north.



The Library will also feature, from mid-June through July, a visual display of African American history on the North Shore presented by Shorefront.

- Act Out: Performance workshops for teens: Every Thursday, starting June 18, 3-4:30 pm, Seminar Room, Main Library

This summer, learn to perform comedy, poetry or theatre with your friends! These drop-in workshops will feature a different performance style each week for you jump in, get messy, and try something new! At the end of the summer, all participants will be invited to showcase their new skills at a Teen Variety Show. Great for novices and experts alike.

- Please plan to join the Evanston Public Library as we march and ride in the July 4th parade.

**Excerpts from Patron feedback:**

- One of our donors made a point to come to my office and compliment the service she received from David Schousboe in Circulation. While checking out a book he noticed that another item has on hold awaiting pick up for her at the North Branch. As she wants to pick up her materials at main, he called the branch, made arrangements for the book to be transferred to main and adjusted the waiting period so the patron has time to retrieve her book. She was impressed with the extra attention and care that David demonstrated.

- From Connie Heneghan regarding the 2015 Summer Reading Program:  
I wanted to share two positive experiences that I have personally had regarding this summer reading program.

First, new Jose came to a story time at CAMS, and I was trying to connect him to various patrons. I was trying to communicate with one family where the son was the translator. Jose reminded me about the log in Mandarin Chinese. When I handed it to the patron a light clearly went on. So glad we have these materials in Chinese (thank you Martha) and Spanish.

Then at North I was registering a family and for once had a little time to spend with them. The daughter was looking through the list hoping to accumulate quickly as many points as possible. As a result, I was able to explain about eBooks, playaways, and Mango. This led to a discussion about foreign languages, and the mother said she wished we had films in Hindi. Because of our floating collection, I was able to hand her 3 films in Hindi and explain how we could obtain more. She was very pleased.

- Another comment about the Summer Reading Program shared by Martha Meyers:  
I had a mom come by and tell me how grateful she was that her older child, motivated by our wonderful new point system, was telling short stories to his younger sister for the last week! I am sure we all have similar stories.

- Comment from Kaleena Escallier, Senior Director of Youth Development, School Age McGaw YMCA Children's Center:

Laura,

It was a CRAZY day here as we prepare to transition into summer. Overall a great one, and I must tell you that the kids were BEGGING to bring their critters out of their lockers most of the afternoon, especially the Kinders. So, the staff let them and they were HOOKED all day. Also, I loved the hair that some of the older kids placed on their guys using pipe cleaners. I'm not sure if you saw that but wow. So creative...

Hope you're well and THANK YOU again. Your activities have been the highlight of the last two half-days :)

Kal

- From Robin Sindelar: Tuesday the 26th reminded me of the small things we do that make a difference. A patron I see regularly had a small crisis. This patron usually comes in with her twelve year old son and her daughter who is a bit older and has developmental delays. While she was looking after her daughter, her son went to the loft without telling her. When she realized he was gone she became distraught. Between Justin, Leigh, McKenna, and I he was quickly found and the mother was calmed. This woman is originally from another country and wears a headscarf. When her child was found she kept saying, "as long as he is alive!" This was a dramatic reaction, which made me wonder what had happened to her in the past. I think she feels safe here and comfortable with her children, and was happy to accept our help when she had trouble. Some days, it's not just about the books!
- From Martha Meyer: A patron, Mackenzie's mom, went to her 1 year well baby visit and the doctor shared with her how many words her child should have mastered by that point. Mackenzie's mom realized that the reason her daughter met this goal were the many words Mackenzie learned as a result of *The Young and the Restless!* (She asked her doctor if animal noises counted and he said yes as long as they are used in context.)