

**NEW ROCHELLE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES  
Monday, August 17, 2015**

Haina Just-Michael, Board President, called the meeting to order at 7:38 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS

Haina Just-Michael, President  
Emery Schweig Vice President (excused)  
Charles Burke, Secretary  
Quentin J. Jacobs  
Damon Maher  
Gregory T. Varian  
George K. Walters

ADMINISTRATION

Thomas Geoffino  
Mary Kane Pasacreta  
Yesika Torres

WLS REPRESENTATIVE

LaRuth Gray (excused)

**DIRECTORS REPORT**

Tom Geoffino reported on the extraordinary success of our 2015 summer programs. Community Relations witnessed over 300 workshops and cultural programs at both the Main Library and Huguenot Children's Library (HCL) involving over 7,500 preschoolers, elementary kids, tween, teens and adults. These numbers are a record for New Rochelle Public Library. Tom also recited the impressive statistics regarding the Children's Summer Reading Game. 856 children registered (720 at Main Library and 136 at HCL) with 9,200 books read (8,219 at Main Library and 981 at HCL) Again, this activity constitutes a new record for our library.

Tom Geoffino also shared information about the likely Eddie Foy donation to our library. Barbara Davis has been in communication with Eddie Foy III (grandson of Eddie Foy) about the potential donation of the following items once owned by this famous New Rochelle resident. Items include Eddie Foy portrait as painted by James Montgomery Flagg, Foy's bronzed dancing shoes as well as 2 scrapbooks, roughly 30: X 35" filled with clipping letters, etc. and his last will and testament along with various pieces of sheet music. No restrictions relate to this donation other than the items cannot be sold. Packing and shipping costs will likely be underwritten by one of our advocacy groups.

It was the sense of the Board this donation should be approved given the proper paperwork (Deed of Gift) reflects the terms as agreed upon by both Mr. Foy and our library.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION:**

The following individuals spoke during this time:

Peggy Godfrey 29 Bayview Avenue  
Guy Robinson 67 President Street

Eric Jennings 1 Beaufort Place  
Marjorie Sachs 14 Lakeside Drive  
Dorothy Oliver 162  
Dan Miller 14 Lakeside Drive  
Michael Miller 14 Lakeside Drive  
Robin Anderson 67 President Street  
Lorraine Karl 43 Belmont Avenue  
David Patterson 31 French Street  
Ron Tocci 138 Emerson Avenue

#### SPECIAL BUSINESS:

Haina Just-Michael provided a brief summary about library/RDRXR efforts. She declared the library has made absolutely no agreements nor have we had any substantive discussions. RDRXR did send our library a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Spring 2015 and the library responded in writing to this document following its July 15<sup>th</sup> meeting by asking to meet in order to clarify our understanding regarding the process and timetable expectations of RDRXR. To date, we have not received a written response to our letter. Haina also reported that a number of library Board members, as well as the New Rochelle Public Library staff, created a “wish list” of expectations relative to a proposed new library facility.

Damon Maher read his “wish list” as did Charles Burke. Greg Varian the “wish list” of absent library Board member Emery Schweig. Tom Geoffino summarized the library staff document depicting the current status of each library area as well as expectation for the proposed new library facility.

Additional discussion occurred between library Board members regarding key issues as the MoU and the need for financial support from RDRXR relative to the library’s need to hire consultants, legal experts, architects, etc. to assist the library in this extraordinary task, the importance of the library maintaining a significant presence in the downtown and the need to maintain the physical link between the library and Ruby Dee Green and the relevance of additional revenue streams for the library in order to alleviate the tax burden from the New Rochelle taxpayer.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Haina Just-Michael moved to enter into Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. for the purposes of discussing a legal matter. Damon Maher moved to leave Executive Session at 10:32 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Burke  
Secretary