

**Minutes Maplewood Memorial Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
November 16, 2011**

The November meeting of the Board of Trustees of Maplewood Memorial Library was called to order by President Hilaire at 7:32 p.m. She read: "Pursuant to Section 3, Chapter 231, Public Law 1975...adequate notice of this meeting has been provided to the public by posting and maintaining the annual notice of regular meetings on the Main Library Bulletin Board, and the office of the Municipal Clerk mailing the annual notice of this meeting to the *Star Ledger* and the *News Record*."

1. Roll Call

Present were: Ms. Bostic (arrived during meeting), Ms. Buchanan, Mr. Duncan, Ms. Hilaire, Mr. Huemer, and Mr. Markel. Mayor DeLuca, Dr. McCaffrey, and Mr. Woolard were absent. Also present: Mrs. Kennedy, Director, Laura Nial of the Friends of the Library, Amanda Eigen, Barbara Laub and Ina Rimpau of the Library staff, Ellen Davenport of the Maplewood Library Foundation, and John Mousseau of Cumberland Advisors.

2. Minutes

Mr. Huemer moved the minutes of the October 19, 2011 minutes, Mr. Markel seconded and the motion carried.

Ayes: Buchanan, Duncan, Hilaire, Huemer, and Markel.

Nays: None

3. Public Comment

Laura Nial urged everyone to attend and spread the word about the Friends' Book Sale this coming weekend, November 19 and 20.

4. Report of the Library Director

Mrs. Kennedy's October Director's Report was placed on file. She added that the library was very busy the days following the October 29 snow storm. Luckily, the library had power. The staff held an appreciation tea for the library volunteers on Tuesday, November 15 and twenty to twenty-five volunteers came.

5. Treasurer's Report

The October Treasurer's report was placed on file subject to audit. Ms. Hilaire asked for clarification of the \$3,000 library raised income for the Teen Room. Mrs. Kennedy reported it was a donation from the Friends of the Library for renovations. Mrs. Kennedy added that the budget line transfers can take place anytime from November 1 this year to March 31 next year per Peter Fresulone, CFO of Maplewood Township. Mr. Huemer moved to accept the October Treasurer's Report, subject to audit, Mr. Duncan seconded and the motion carried.

Ayes: Buchanan, Duncan, Hilaire, Huemer, and Markel.

Nays: None

6. Claims

Mr. Markel presented the Claims to November 16, 2011. They totaled \$37,149.14. Mr. Markel moved the claims be paid, Mr. Huemer seconded and the motion carried.

Ayes: Buchanan, Duncan, Hilaire, Huemer, and Markel.

Nays: None

7. For Information

A. Introduction of Ina Rimpau, Hilton Branch Manager

Mrs. Kennedy introduced Ina Rimpau, the new Hilton Branch Manager. Ms. Rimpau lives in Maplewood. She has a 9 ½ year old daughter who is a reluctant reader so she can empathize with parents of children with reading issues. She earned her degree at the McGill University in Montreal. She moved to Maplewood in June, 2000 because of its reputation and this was the kind of community she wanted to raise a child in. She is thrilled to be professionally settled in Maplewood as well as residing here. She worked for sixteen years at Newark Public Library in three different branches including the main library. She looks forward to working at the Hilton Branch.

B. Foundation Report

Ellen Davenport reported the Foundation is still in the beginning stages of formation but she feels they are on the right track. There are five members on the Board, a sixth person who has committed and two more people in the pipeline. They are not rushing to fill the Board and are being very judicious about people who ask to be on the Board because they want the Board to reflect Maplewood and the members to be familiar with fundraising. They realize that is the objective, to be in support of the Library. By December 31, 2011, the Foundation should be up and running. They plan to have a get-to-know-you fundraiser in February or March, 2012 which will be more of a “friendraiser”. They are looking into setting up their logo. They have been researching how other library foundations are run. The people on the Board represent a cross section of Maplewood. Rowland Bennett is the President, Kevin Sheridan is the Secretary, Ellen Davenport is the Treasurer. The other members are Ian Grodman, Judge Ben Cohen, and Marc Morial has agreed to join. They want to make sure their by-laws work for the Town of Maplewood. The goal is to have nine people on the Board by January 2012. Suggestions for prospective Board members are welcome. The Library’s homepage has a link to a page describing the Foundation. Mr. Huemer thanked Ellen Davenport for her report.

C. CWA Update

Mrs. Kennedy reported that the CWA representatives and management met on Monday, November 14, and negotiations are still ongoing. Hopefully, a contract can be agreed upon before the end of 2011. This will be a three year contract. The current contract expired December 31, 2010. [Ms. Bostic arrived].

At this time, Mr. Huemer requested item 9.A. on the agenda, Moving the Stokes Account, be discussed. The Trustees agreed.

9. For Action

A. Moving the Stokes Account

Mr. Huemer introduced Mr. John Mousseau, a long time resident of Maplewood who works for Cumberland Advisors. He is one of the leading municipal bond analysts in the United States. Mr. Huemer asked him, as an alternative to the NJ Cash Management account, to look at legal entities that the Stokes money can be invested in. Under the terms of the Stokes bequest, only the interest can be spent. Mr. Mousseau distributed information packages to the Trustees. He introduced himself and gave a description of Cumberland Advisors. Mr. Mousseau has lived in Maplewood for 23 years and has managed municipal bond portfolios for 28 years. They use US treasuries or US agencies or taxable municipal bonds. Interest rates are higher on taxable municipal bonds. Taxable bonds have an end private purpose that’s using the money but the municipality backs them. An example would be a city building roads or laying water and sewer pipes for a stadium where the end user is the stadium, a private entity. Mr. Mousseau then reviewed the information in the packages he distributed and gave a detailed

explanation of yields, terms, default rates, risks, and ratings. He will prepare a higher income producing sample portfolio. The fees associated with this investment will be .02% of the principal or roughly \$1,000/year.

8. For Discussion

A. Signage in the Library

Ms. Hilaire asked if there were plans to install a sign in the café area. Mrs. Kennedy said she and Irene Langlois were looking into getting stick on letters for the café and teen zone areas. Further discussion about various bare walls revealed plans to decorate with gingerbread men created by patrons participating in the *Make Art, Not Cookies* program.

B. The Library as Emergency Shelter

After the October 29 snowstorm knocked out the power for many people in town, Dr. McCaffrey was in the library as she was affected by the power outage. She wanted to know why the Library could not extend its hours on Tuesday evening. If the Library decided to stay open as a service to the town, would a vote from the Trustees be needed? Mrs. Kennedy said she is not authorized to extend the hours. The decision would have to start with the Board and then the Town. The Branch is open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays. The Dehart Center is the Town's emergency shelter and they were open Monday and Tuesday all night. Mr. Markel stated this should be taken up with the governing body because it is Township emergency management rather than the Board declaring the Library an emergency shelter or a charging station or some place to stay warm. The Library did post on Twitter, Facebook and Maplewood Online that we were open during normal hours and we have Wi-Fi, a place to charge your cell phone, coffee, lights, and heat. Mr. Huemer suggested a policy be in place that if the Town declared an emergency, that both branches of the library be authorized to be open until 9 p.m. if the Director is able to staff it properly. Mr. Markel added that it is not a bad idea, but the Town would have to fund it. Mr. Duncan feels it is not the Library's purpose to be an emergency shelter. Further discussion is needed on this issue.

10. New Business

Ms. Buchanan attended the *Nannies in the Know* program conducted by Diane Tremper of the children's Room this morning. It is a program for nannies to help them develop skills to teach literacy skills for young children. Ms. Buchanan added that she thought the program was very original.

11. Public Comment/Open Discussion

There was none.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Huemer moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m., Ms. Hilaire seconded and the motion carried.

Ayes: Bostic, Buchanan, Duncan, Hilaire, Huemer, and Markel.

Nays: None

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine McCaffrey
Secretary