



SERVICES COMMITTEE

January 10, 2008

PRESENT: Erin Apostol, LouAnne Lundgren, Robert Jaquay, Mary Muller, Lois Prenovost, Philip Ritter, Heidi Fuge

ABSENT: Michael Borges,

I. VARIANCE REQUESTS FROM STEPHENTOWN and BRUNSWICK

P. Ritter reported that the State accepted the Variance Request from the Stephentown Library but refused the Request from the Brunswick Library, asking for more detailed information about their plans to meet the Minimum Standards. Brunswick re-submitted their request with expanded information about their work in obtaining a more suitable building. Joe Mattie, at the Division of Library Development, said that the revised request is acceptable to him if it is acceptable to the UHLS Board of Trustees. Non-approval of the Variance Request is the reason for the delay in receiving the final 10% of the LLSA and the LSSA.. Discussion regarding Brunswick. P. Ritter noted that he has met with the Brunswick Board and talked about solutions to their problem; they are making some attempt to improve the situation. M. Muller reported that Kathleen Jimino, the Rensselaer County Executive, is aware of the problem that the library is having in trying to locate an acceptable building.

CONSENSUS to recommend that the Board approve the revised Variance Request from the Brunswick Library.

II. OUTREACH ADVISORY COUNCIL

P. Ritter reported that the Outreach Advisory Council has two members who need to be re-appointed for three year terms. These appointments would be retroactive to July 2007.

MOTION: M. Muller moved to recommend to the Board of Trustees that Erin Apostol and Nancy Lerner should be re-appointed, retroactively, to the Outreach Advisory Council for three- year terms from July 2007 to June 2010. R. Jaquay seconded. Unanimous.

III. LSTA SUMMER READING PROGRAM GRANT

P. Ritter reported that Mary Fellows has developed a "Public Relations Challenge Grant" for the Summer Reading Program. Ordinarily, the Summer Reading funds from the State are used to purchase paperbacks that are given as Summer Reading awards. The State has decided that the funds may no longer be used to buy books, but must be used to encourage more libraries to participate and to obtain better publicity. Since the UHLS Summer Reading Programs have been so successful, the State doubled the funding from \$6,000 to \$12,000. Mary Fellows is recommending that the funds be made available to the libraries on a multi-level funding schedule. The amount of money that they would receive would depend on the number of publicity-type activities in which they engaged. The funds would be available on a

scale of: \$150, \$250, \$350 and \$450. R. Jaquay noted that this seemed to be a very fair way of dispersing the funds because it allowed for participation by all of the various size libraries.

CONSENSUS to recommend that the Board approve the "Public Relations Challenge Grant" for the Summer Reading Program.

IV. BIG READ PROGRAM

P. Ritter reported that UHLS ordered plenty of copies of *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton and that the libraries are encouraged to ask for as many copies as they want, and to give these copies away to their patrons. The Big Read Program will take place in April - this might conflict somewhat with the Riverway Storytelling Festival, but this is the time preferred by the Writers Institute. Jo-Ann Benedetti will be planning a bus trip to The Mount, Edith Wharton's home in Lennox, Massachusetts.

Heidi A. Fuge

1/10/08