



UHLS BOARD OF TRUSTEES
October 11, 2006
MINUTES

PRESENT: Rachel Baum, Jeffrey Cannell, Charles Diamond, Brian Hartson, LouAnne Lundgren, Mary Muller, James Reilly

EXCUSED: Erin Apostol, Cris Blanchard, Mary Alice Molgard, Lois Prenovost, Pat Spohr, Richard Young

ABSENT: Hawley Zwahlen

UHLS STAFF: Philip Ritter, Heidi Fuge

In the absence of a quorum, no official action could be taken.

I. ARTS GRANT APPLICATION

P. Ritter explained that the deadline for the submission of the Laughin' Night Riverway Grant was October 12th. The members present concurred that the grant should be submitted and will be approved at the November meeting.

II. PURCHASE OF A NEW PHOTOCOPIER

The members present concurred that the UHLS staff should proceed with the purchase of a new color photocopier. The purchase of the copier will be made from the Equipment Reserve Account with approval for this payment being made at the November meeting.

III. NEW TRUSTEE

It was noted that Paula Read will be the new Trustee from Bethlehem as of the November meeting.

Heidi A. Fuge
10/12/06

UPPER HUDSON LIBRARY SYSTEM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT For September 2006

October 11, 2006

Trustee Training Conference – The Conference was held on **Thursday, September 21, from 4:00 until 8:00 p.m.** at the **Clarion Hotel** on Watervliet Ave. Ext. in Albany. **James L. Farrell, Jr.**, formerly with the New York State Division of Library Development and now a Consultant specializing in public libraries and their Boards of Trustees, led the program. Following are the nine *Table Talks* and the individuals who conducted them during dinner:

Library Policies – Nancy Pieri

Hiring/Evaluating a Director – Jim Farrell

Advocacy/Community Relations – Jo-Ann Benedetti

Board/Staff Relations – Philip Ritter

Intellectual Freedom – Mary Fellows

Library Automation – Joe Thornton

Building Projects – Jeff Cannell

Fundraising – Paul Hicok

Disaster Plans – Carol Clingan

Seventy people attended this workshop and overwhelmingly approved of the format, time frame, and content. Following are the most popular topics suggested for future workshops: *Building and Renovation, Fiscal Responsibilities of Library Boards, Increasing Board Effectiveness, Planning and Evaluation, and Core Issues Library Trustees Should Understand.*

Growing A Reader – Thirty-three people attended this September 7th early literacy workshop at UHLS. This is a statewide LSTA project that provides training on early literacy activities for librarians and other professionals in the community. We were pleased to have among the attendees, six people from WMHT and Cornell Cooperative Extension. Participants left the workshop very satisfied and energized. There will be a follow-up workshop on October 3rd co-sponsored with the Southern Adirondack Library System that will help hone the story times to reflect the new techniques presented in this workshop.

Gates Staying Connected Grant Survey – In order to obtain feedback for this training project, UHLS distributed surveys to all of the member library staff who serve patrons when they are using computers in the library. The purpose of the Survey is to solicit specific questions and problems that can then be addressed to make the technology training more meaningful for project participants.

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Summer Reading Program 2006 – The statistics for the program show that the total children and teen registrations (6,653) were up slightly this year while the total program attendance (22,596) went down. This was probably caused by the fact that there were slightly fewer total programs (879) offered this year because of staff vacancies in several member libraries. Regardless, the children and teens read a total of 37,985 books during the summer.

Collaborative Summer Library Program – This is the last year that there will be a New York-only Summer Reading Program. New York has joined 30+ states to develop a common theme and materials. There will be many positive results of this decision for our libraries. One impact will be many more incentive prizes available to libraries at competitive prices. Another positive impact will be receiving materials earlier to get promotion underway. UHLS is looking forward to being part of the CSLP in 2007.

Five-Year Library System Plan of Service for 2007-2001 – The UHLS Plan of Service was submitted to DLD on September 20, 2006, well in advance of the deadline. We are now waiting for the review by DLD staff.

Courier Delivery System – Representatives of the four participating Systems met on September 25th to discuss our concerns with the purchase of CD&L by Velocity Express and our ongoing problems with the delivery service. All of the middle management staff of CD&L left the new company, and we still do not know who is in charge of the local operations. We have scheduled a meeting on October 3rd with Vince Giambrone, Regional Director of National Accounts, whose office is in Rochester, NY, and look forward to getting some resolution of our concerns and answers to our questions.

Green Buildings Workshop – On September 26th, Heidi Fuge attended this workshop at the Mid-Hudson Library System in Poughkeepsie. The full-day event dealt with energy efficiencies, renewable energy, facility maintenance, sustainable design, and funding “green” initiatives. She reports that the workshop was fascinating and that she hopes to implement some of the cost-saving and energy-saving suggestions in the UHLS building.

Philip W. Ritter
Executive Director