

**Highwood Public Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting
February 28, 2011**

Present—Trustees: Alison Aldrich, Jaime Barraza, Bertha Chavez, Lucy Hospodarsky, Catherine Regalado.

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.

Ms. Aldrich provided background to the large public group on the request by Nuestro Center for a minimum 5 year lease of the library space known as the book sale room. She mentioned a request to view the space had previously been considered by the board and read the consensus not to allow this that was shared with Alderman Falberg (appendix). She added that the quality of the organization and the good it does in the community is known by the board and did not need to be addressed in public comments.

Paul Dean, Executive Director of Family Services, addressed the board. He spoke on the large community support and show of interest in this proposal demonstrated by the evening's turnout. He mentioned that they were on the "one inch line" to proceed with another location when they became aware of the library space. Due to timing for the \$50,000 buildout, the lease must begin by June 1st ideally, and July 1st at the latest so site could be open for the next school year. Architect John Hershey and programming director Elsi Rodriguez could be available to answer questions.

Sandy Anderson, Oak Terrace School principal, spoke on partnerships and potential for library grants as a result of the lease, and leadership needed from the board. Matt Ferrari from the Moraine Township grant board spoke in favor of a yes vote for the proposal. Lillian Herter, president of advisory council for Nuestro Center, also was in favor of the board voting yes to the proposal. Wilma Lakin, library employee, spoke in favor of keeping space for the library. Kay Kelly, resident and library volunteer, spoke of her work in that space to counteract years of neglect and hoarding, that she was in favor of the library as a community center, which it currently is, but more space would allow it to be done better, and the library is on the verge of making this happen. Barbara Amendola, resident, spoke about the budget, the library having funding issues for programming and hours, and the potential income from the lease that would also save the library from having to do renovation on that space.

Ms. Aldrich noted that the proposal takes the only library ADA-accessible bathroom, and creating another one would be costly. Mr. Barraza noted the proposal was preliminary. Mr. Hershey observed that both male and female bathrooms would be required for the Center. Ms. Hospodarsky spoke on her need to represent the library and community as a whole, the need for short and long term planning, and that she felt the time is not right for this proposal. Mr. Barraza stated that the library's short and long term planning is present in the proposal, with potential revenue for a new building, and that other space could be used for programming. Ms. Aldrich asked whether Nuestro Center has looked for short term options. Mr. Dean addressed the possibility of sharing space, that Nuestro Center wouldn't use the leased space 24 hours a day, but could let library use the space at

undetermined times, and the center would even use more of the library at times. Ms. Chavez stated that she was passionate about representing the Hispanic community, but this is not the right time for this proposal. Ms. Regalado stated her wish that the space be used for library needs as multiple library consultants have recommended, and not leased to any organization.

Mayor Pecaro advised that a vote on the issue could not be taken if voting was not on the agenda. Mr. Dean noted he could do the math now and see that a majority of the board was not in favor of the proposal. Ms. Aldrich again brought up shared space but said library professionals and whole of public input needed to guide board. Ms. Aldrich stated that Ms. Chavez had been asked to recuse herself from a vote but that Ms. Aldrich doesn't feel that there is a valid reason for this so would not ask her to do so.

Secretary's Report

Ms. Regalado moved to approve the February 21, 2011 special meeting minutes. Ms. Hospodarsky seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report

Ms. Regalado moved and Ms. Hospodarsky seconded to approve the December financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

The board reviewed the January financial report. Ms. Regalado noted she had talked with Ms. Niles about properly classifying computer hardware purchases. Ms. Niles had also clarified the October 2010 Staff reimbursement line was for Pumpkin Fest expenses, and Ms. Regalado pointed out that after subtracting revenue from the Fest, the library had an outlay of ~\$2000 for the Pumpkin Fest activities. Ms. Hospodarsky questioned total assets not equaling liabilities plus equity on January's balance sheet. She moved to table approval of the January financial report until this could be sorted out. Ms. Aldrich seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mr. Lolli will be asked to help with spreadsheet reconciliation.

Ms. Aldrich moved and Ms. Regalado seconded to enter Executive Session to discuss personnel. Executive Session entered at 8:30 pm.

The meeting was called back to order at 10:29 pm

Ms. Aldrich moved and Ms. Hospodarsky seconded to offer the position of director to Anthony Molaro at a total cost not to exceed that of previous director, and if unsuccessful, offer to next candidates in order of board ranking. The motion carried unanimously.

The board will not meet next Monday unless necessary.

Candidates for library board should be present at next regular board meeting. Potential interview questions were reviewed. Process with city council was reviewed. Candidates will be invited to next board meeting in writing.

Ms. Regalado moved and Ms. Hospodarsky seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:47 pm

From: Alison
>Sent: Sunday, February 06, 2011 2:02 PM
>To: 'Eric Falberg'
>Subject: La Nuestra Center
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>Hi Eric,
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>The Board met and discussed this briefly on Saturday
morning. The
majority
>of the Board feels that we are not ready to make a
commitment as to the use
>of the book sale space at the library and are not likely
to be ready soon.
>It sounds like they are looking for an answer quickly.
Given that, it may
>not be the best use of their time to come see the space.

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>Sincerely,
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>
>Alison