

**BROWN DEER VILLAGE BOARD
APRIL 25, 2005 MEETING MINUTES
HELD AT THE COMMUNITY ROOM, BROWN DEER LIBRARY
5600 WEST BRADLEY ROAD**

The meeting was called to order by President Jaberg at 7:10 P.M.

I. Roll Call

Present: Village President Jaberg; Trustees: Baker, Boschert, Krueger, Kunding, Springman

Absent: Trustee: Schilz

Also Present: Russell Van Gompel, Village Manager; Gerald Balistreri, Library Board President;
Library Board Members: Ann Griffin, Wendy Jabas

II. Public Hearing to Withdraw from the Milwaukee County Federated Library System

Village President Jaberg introduced the Village Board members, staff, and Library Board members. She outlined the process to be followed for the public hearing and requested that persons complete a registration form. Persons will be called to speak based on the forms completed and an opportunity will be given for additional comments after the persons have been called forward. She then introduced Gerald Balistreri.

Mr. Balistreri provided introductory comments including the difficult position the Library Board and the Village Board members are facing. He noted that Library Board members are supporters and users of the Library and the Milwaukee County Federated System (MCFLS) but that the community needed to be reimbursed for non-residents who use our Library. Mr. Balistreri introduced Arnie Gutkowski, Library Director.

Mr. Gutkowski provided a power point presentation outlining MCFLS, reciprocal borrowing, the impact of non-residents on the operations of the Brown Deer Library, the benefits of resources provided by the MCFLS, impact of the new MCFLS contract, financial considerations, costs if membership with MCFLS is terminated, and other fund raising options.

Sue Long, 7245 W. Wabash Ave., Milwaukee, spoke in favor of staying in the system. Ms. Long noted that she is a Milwaukee resident and will be willing to pay a non-resident fee.

Rita Maher, 5767 W. Fairy Chasm Rd, spoke in favor of remaining in MCFLS. She repeated portions of the Community Visioning Statement which stated the desire to provide and maintain quality community services, she noted that the Kettle Commission reported of cooperation and shared services wherever possible. She noted examples of materials she checked out which were not available at the Brown Deer Library but were obtained from other member libraries.

Roger Chu, 9143 N. Bethanne Dr., stated he liked the library, the building, staff, and hours of operation. He is in favor of leaving the system. He supports additional taxes for the Library. He also noted that volunteers could be utilized to reduce operational cost and that he would be able to assist with some technology issues.

Jim Gingery, 9500 W. Auer Ave., Milwaukee, noted that he is the Executive Director of MCFLS and spoke in favor of Brown Deer remaining in MCFLS. He spoke of the benefits of the system including, access to other materials, cataloging, delivery of materials, technical support, Wide Area Networking, continuing education, Internet access, e-mail and web hosting. He noted that MCFLS and low staffing costs with 11 employees and only 22% of the total operating cost is for personnel.

Monica Baran, 3656 W. Pelican Ln., questioned if state aid was available directly for the Brown Deer Library and initially supports staying in the system.

Bob Adkins, 8642 N. 51st St., stated that he would hate to see Brown Deer leave MCFLS. He loves the Library and felt that funding for the Library is one of the best returns he gets from his property tax payment.

Frank Laycock, 5207 W. Churchill Ln., noted that he was a previous Library Board member and that he favored staying in MCFLS.

Susan Phelps, 8515 N. 62nd St., spoke in favor of staying in MCFLS. She noted the benefit of being able to order materials from other libraries. She stated she loves the library and that the community gains by having a quality library service. She opined that the Library could increase other fees.

Helen Witte, 5836 W. Green Brook Dr., noted that she was active in the Brown Deer Junior Woman's Club who was part of the effort to create and establish the Brown Deer Library. She noted that people learn through books, and that our society places the wrong emphasis when more money is spent on athletics than for books. She felt that library expenditures were necessary to maintain the quality of life in Brown Deer.

Ray Saron, 9440 N. Maura Ln., opposed to leaving MCFLS. He wished to have access system materials. He favored staying in the system and take the three years to review and determine alternatives to pay for reciprocal borrowing.

Steven Davis, 6943 N. Longview Ave., Glendale, stated that he utilizes both the Brown Deer and North Shore Library. He urged Brown Deer to stay in the system, so that it would not be isolated from other libraries. He also favored paying a non-resident user fee.

Allen Davidson, 8084 N. 44th St., noted that the Village would lose money either way and that he felt the benefits of staying in the system is greater than the revenue lost. He further noted that the cost to leave the system and creating a separate catalog is greater than the loss in revenue. He noted that additional alternatives could be developed over the next three years.

Erin Epping, 9267 N. Fairy Chasm Ln., favored staying in the system. She stated that the value of staying in the system is greater than the cost to withdraw from MCFLS. She supports an increase in tax levy for library services.

Barbara Zozakiewicz, 8547 N. Meadowside Ct., inquired about the cost of installing a new computer system. She favors staying in the system, noting it is a valuable service.

Rita Maher questioned the fee for a non-resident.

Gerald Balistreri spoke about the wonderful institution of the library and that library services are a great value. He encouraged people to get the word out about the funding problems of reciprocal borrowing and stated that he felt funding could be found in some level of government either at the state, county, or local level. He noted that an answer could be found by leaders in the various levels of government.

Allen Davidson opined that an annual sticker fee should be charged to library patrons.

Roger Chu noted that he is not against libraries, but that government funding and property tax increases should be controlled and limited.

In addition to the above persons who spoke at the meeting, 14 people registered as opposing to withdraw from the system and 3 persons registered in favor of leaving the system. Attendance at the meeting was approximately 50 persons.

XI. Adjournment

The public hearing was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Russell Van Gompel, Village Manager