

**Winnipeg Public Library Board (WPLB)**  
**April 12, 2010 5:00 p.m.**  
**Millennium Library, 251 Donald, Buchwald Room**

**Final approved minutes**

Present: Chair R. Burgess; V. DePape; A. Hoeft, D. Hultin, C. Kolybabi-Labossière, D. MacEwan, J. Mabee, B. McDonald, M. Pagtakhan, T. Surgenor, R. Walker, A. Wallace, J. Watt and H. Graham

Regrets: J. St. Hill, S. Singh, and Councillor H. Smith

Guest: Maurice Mierau, Writer-in-Residence

**1. Call to order**

R. Burgess called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. and welcomed guests.

**2. Approval of the agenda**

Two items were added to the agenda, as 5 e and 5 f: Allan Patterson room dedication, and handouts of binder updates. The agenda was approved on a motion by J. Mabee, and seconded by C. Kolybabi-Labossière.

**3. Guest: Maurice Mierau**

R. Walker introduced the Library's 20th Writer-in-Residence, Maurice Mierau, who has published two books of poetry, *Fear Not* (Turnstone, 2008) and *Ending with Music* (Brick, 2002). *Fear Not* recently won the national ReLit Award and was a finalist in two categories at the 2009 Manitoba Book Awards: the McNally Robinson Book of the Year Award, and the Aqua Books Lansdowne Prize for Poetry. He has also written a non-fiction book about the history of tuberculosis in Manitoba called *Memoir of a Living Disease* (Great Plains, 2005), which won the Margaret McWilliams Award from the Manitoba Historical Society. Mierau is an editor for Winnipeg-based fiction imprint, Enfield & Wizenty. He grew up using libraries in Jamaica, Kansas, Saskatchewan and Winnipeg.

Mr. Mierau thanked the Library Board for its support of the Writer-in-Residence program. He said that his role as Writer-in-Residence, which runs until June 2010, has been rewarding, productive, demanding, gratifying, and occasionally a bit frustrating. He said he is very grateful for the opportunity, both to serve the community of readers and writers in various ways, and also for the office space and equipment, the support from library staff, and, he added, for the income.

He explained that the Writer-in-Residence program has three aspects: consultation with the public on their writing projects, work on his own projects, and participation in some public events connected with writing and literature. He added that this last aspect is not formally defined in the contract.

The Library's Writer-in-Residence program is well-established and attracts a broad range of people as clients. Mr. Mierau has been surprised at the variety and number of people who have submitted their work, including teenagers writing fan fiction, senior citizens writing memoirs for their families, aspiring novelists of every age, poets, Young Adult writers, a few memoirists and self-help writers, and a graphic novelist. Mr. Mierau has consistently tried to find out what it is that people want to achieve, and what books they read in the genre in which they are interested, as ways to gain a context in which to advise them.

Because this is a position that serves a very broad range of the general public, Mr. Mierau thinks it is important to understand how ambitious and well-informed a writer is before supplying feedback. His philosophy is that good writing always comes out of good reading. Successful writers are always experts on the genres in which they publish, he said.

To date he had consulted with over 100 people, which amounts to just under 20 people a month. There have been some writers of real talent and promise.

He said that, in terms of his own work, he has completed a new draft of poems which is now under revision and which should be off to a publisher before the end of his term. He might even have time to re-visit an earlier prose project.

Mr. Mierau has participated in a number of public events, which are important for bringing public visibility to the position. In the fall he organized an event called the Dead Poets' Recital, at which people were encouraged to read or recite the work of well-known poets from the past. It was well-attended. He also did a public interview with Joan Thomas at the library as part of the On the Same Page project. In mid-April planned to conduct public interviews and readings with a visiting poet from Vancouver, Elise Partridge. In May he will be travelling to Virden to do a reading and a workshop. He also did a workshop on revision in January.

In response to questions, Mr. Mierau said that approximately 10% of his consultations were with rural Manitobans. And he noted that a high school writing club from Beausejour, and their teacher, would be visiting him during the week of April 20.

A Board member asked how he handles those writers with less potential. He explained his mentoring philosophy: that is, trying to find out what people want to achieve before advising them. Also he stressed the importance of being courteous and respectful, and the fact that not everyone wants to be professionally published. He also mentioned that a correspondent said that his "candour was refreshing," and that generally the evaluations from clients have been quite positive.

Mr. Walker thanked the Library Board for its funding support, which provides enormous value for the money invested.

Mr. Mierau again expressed gratitude to the Library Board for its support of this program, stressing its importance to the literary community and to the public at large. He added that the visibility that the program provides is also important, especially for a non-commercial genre like poetry.

Ms Burgess thanked Mr. Mierau, and directed Board members to his website:  
<http://www.mauricemierau.com/wp/>.

#### **4. Approval of Minutes**

Corrections to the minutes of March 8, 2010:

Regarding those present at the last meeting, it was pointed out that D. Hultin and Councillor Pagtakhan had sent their regrets. On page 3, item 7a, first paragraph, the picture is of Upper Fort Garry. The figures at the bottom of page 5 were verified as accurate. On page 6, the second last paragraph of item 7e, in the second last paragraph, "the City" should be deleted and replaced by "the Library". On page 8, at the end of the first paragraph, the last sentence was deleted. The amended minutes were approved on a motion by C. Kolybabi-Labossière and seconded by A. Hoefl.

## 5. Matters Arising from the Minutes

### a. Board nominees to LACs

Ms Burgess read the disposition from the March 16 East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee meeting, which stated that the East Kildonan-Transcona Community Committee had received the Library Board's recommendation as information, and "further, the East Kildonan - Transcona Community Committee requested the Winnipeg Public Library Board to submit names of residents of northeast Winnipeg as nominees for appointment to the East Kildonan-Transcona Library Advisory Committee". Ms Burgess has left a message for Councillor Browaty, Committee Chair. And the Board has asked to be added to the agenda of the next Community Committee meeting. B. McDonald, one of the Board's nominees to the E.K.-Transcona Library Advisory Committee, was raised in North Kildonan and lived there till he was 16.

### b. Annual Report

H. Graham explained the reasons for delays in the report's preparation.

For the May 10 meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Protection and Community Services (PCS), the report should be submitted to the Committee Clerk by May 3. However, Councillor Pagtakhan said that the PCS meeting had been moved up to May 3, so the submission deadline would now be April 28. The subsequent meeting is scheduled for May 26, the deadline for which would be May 19.

### c. Ontario Library Association Conference

Ms Burgess thanked Ms Kolybabi-Labossière for her excellent and timely report, forwarded to Board members prior to the Board meeting. Ms Kolybabi-Labossière said that she would find a way to post her photos of the libraries' tour for access by all Board members.

### d. CPR

Ms Kolybabi-Labossière said that the room is booked for the CPR session to be held on April 24, from 10:30 a.m. for participants R. Walker, R. Burgess, A. Wallace and D. MacEwan. She distributed a package of information; booklets are on order.

### e. Patterson Room Dedication

Executive Committee has approved the purchase of a floral arrangement of up to \$150. Ms Kolybabi-Labossière will arrange for the purchase and delivery.

### f. Updates for Binders

Ms Burgess had noticed that some of the documents in Board members' binders had been updated and the updates had been distributed at the February orientation for new Board and LAC members. Ms Graham distributed sets of the updated documents to Board members.

## 6. Reports

### a. Chair

Ms Burgess described her visit to PCS to thank Councillors for their support of the Board's requests for increases to the Library's materials budget and the Board's grant from the City.

She was one of three guests at a lunch in the Mayor's Office, which Scotiabank won in a silent auction. It was a very positive experience, Ms Burgess said, and she took every opportunity to promote the Library.

Ms Burgess thanked Ms Graham for meeting with the four newest LAC members who were appointed after the February orientation.

Ms Burgess will set up an Advocacy Committee, the first meeting of which will be a brainstorming session that will focus on the upcoming civic election. Ms Graham had forwarded to Board members the questions sent to candidates during the 2006 civic election. She mentioned the Board's submission, during a prior election, to the Winnipeg Free Press, which it used for its "question of the day", about library funding. Councillor Pagtakhan commented that those questions looked good. The 2010 election will be an opportunity to get libraries into the forefront.

**b. Treasurer**

J. Watt distributed a financial statement dated April 6, 2010. He explained he would be meeting with V. DePape, to modify the format.

Mr. Watt added that he will be attending a Volunteer Manitoba training session on April 14, Bookkeeping Basics for Non-Profits.

**c. Executive**

The Executive Committee has established priorities for 2010:

1. *Advocacy*
  - *funding / resources*
  - *library services*
  
2. *Enhance*
  - *studies*
  - *Winnipeg Library Foundation*
  - *Writer-in-Residence*
  - *Jack Montgomery Community Outreach award*
  
3. *Promote the changing role of the Library*
  - *Speakers' Bureau*
  - *LACs*
  - *Outreach*
  - *Language and Literacy grants*
  
4. *Strengthening capacity (an internal activity)*

**Strategic planning**

Ms Burgess said that, on a Saturday in fall, the Board will hold a brainstorming session that will start with the current strategic plan. Board members have suggested three names of contractors to whom we will send requests for proposals, to facilitate the fall session and write the plan. Mr. Watt is working on the wording for the RFP.

**Canadian Library Association's situation**

In a letter to the membership, CLA President John Teskey explained the rationale for the establishment of the President's problem-solving task force. The organization is solvent, but is evaluating its effectiveness. Budgets anticipate that revenues will not cover expenditures. Membership numbers are down. And the President said the organization has some serious financial concerns. The working group will develop various scenarios, which will be pulled apart and reconstructed, while giving members the opportunity to give feedback online.

Ms Burgess will keep current on the issues, and will attend the CLA annual general meeting in Edmonton (during the annual conference in June). CLA is an effective, national advocacy voice.

She said that the conference program offers many relevant sessions for trustees.

#### **d. Community Outreach**

Community Outreach Committee Chair J. Mabee said that the Language and Literacy grants selection committee will meet on April 14, to review the applications and select winners of the three \$1,000 grants. Slightly more than half of the applications were from schools, with the remainder being from other associations.

The Library's Administrative Coordinator of Outreach and Marketing, Kathleen Williams, will attend the next meeting of the CO Committee on May 20 at Millennium Library.

#### **e. Manager of Library Services**

Mr. Walker distributed his report (Appendix A), which covered the concept of floating collections, the Windsor Park room dedication in memory of former Library Board member Dr. Allan Patterson, the status of the Lord Selkirk-West Kildonan Library Advisory Committee's request for a median cut on Keewatin, and upcoming library renovations and related closures.

#### **f. Board Reps. to Library Advisory Committees**

##### **City Centre:**

Ms Mabee had been unable to attend the last meeting of the City Centre LAC on April 8. She read the report provided by Dr. S. Singh.

- Ken Bass was elected as Chair, and Michael Keenan was elected as Secretary-Treasurer.
- Members suggested specific improvements to library services in their area.
- They requested an update on the restoration of paintings located in the Local History Room of Millennium Library and related grant applications.
- They had recommended that Cornish and St. John's Libraries receive National Heritage Status, and asked about the status of their request.
- The Cornish Library is participating in *Doors Open* events on June 15, 2010 from 1:00-3:00pm to celebrate its 95<sup>th</sup> birthday. The LAC would like to know which other libraries are part of the *Doors Open* event.  
<http://www.doorsopenwinnipeg.ca/>
- The Manitoba Public Libraries' conference is taking place on May 17-20, 2010 in Winnipeg. All are encouraged to attend. More details about the conference are at [www.manitobalibraryconference.ca](http://www.manitobalibraryconference.ca).
- The LAC wishes to know more about the (now postponed) *Books2Eat* event that the Lord-Selkirk-West Kildonan LAC had been planning.

Ms Kolybabi-Labossiere, as the Board's Vice-Chair, will be attending a LAC meeting in each district this year, and will clarify the roles of LACs, Board and the Library.

##### **Riel:**

Ms St. Hill sent regrets; Ms Graham read her report. The Riel LAC held a "Meet-and-Greet" at St. Vital Library on Monday, March 29th. The event coincided with a children's event featuring entertainer Mr. Mark. Over 60 kids and parents attended. Before and after the event, information was provided to parents and other library patrons about the LAC and all were encouraged to enter a draw. (Prizes included Board-donated copies of the "On The Same Page" book.) The LAC offered cookies and juice to the kids after the musical performance. At least one person was expecting to have to participate in a survey and appeared relieved that we were just

offering information. A number of patrons commented how much they valued the library services.

**g. Speakers' Bureau**

Mr. Hultin said that on March 26 and April 1, his public service announcement (PSA) on the Board's Speakers' Bureau appeared in the Winnipeg Free Press' Billboard column. He will continue to submit to Billboard. He has also developed a radio PSA, which aired on Red River College's radio station 92.9 KICK-FM, and on CBC Radio. He has also developed some posters, a sample of which he circulated.

Councillor Pagtakhan had suggested a speaking opportunity at the Philippine Canadian Centre of Manitoba; he will liaise with Mr. Hultin to plan for a June presentation.

**h. Winnipeg Library Foundation**

Mr. Walker said that the Foundation is actively fundraising for the Library Park. The Winnipeg Arts Council will be funding part of the park's art structures and the water wall. Ms Burgess said that WLF Chair S. Hyman indicated there was nothing new to report.

**i. Manitoba Public Library Services**

Ms Burgess had asked T. Surgenor about the impact of the recent Provincial budget on Manitoba's public libraries. He said it will be a year of belt-tightening, though there were no major cuts to Public Library Services division, and there would be no impact on clients. The cut of \$143,000 was what he was expecting. None of the client libraries' grants were cut.

Mr. Surgenor gave an update on eLibraries Manitoba, known as eLM. In November 2007 a partnership was established between Winnipeg Public Library (WPL) and the Province, whereby customers could download digital files 24/7. About 46% are e-books. As of November 2009, more than 75,000 items had been downloaded. WPL, in 2008, had 13,000 downloads, and in 2009 those had increased to 28,000. Library card holders can download Adobe EPUB eBooks, Adobe PDF eBooks, Mobipocket eBooks, OverDrive WMA Audiobooks, OverDrive and MP3 Audiobooks. He gave examples of significant increases in usage. There are 268 new users per month on average. Mr. Walker said that the Province provided the start-up costs. The service is great for all Manitoba public libraries. About half the Canadian population has access to OverDrive (a global distributor of audiobooks, eBooks, music and video) through their public libraries. Mr. Walker reiterated the tremendous use and turnover rate. Users can borrow the items for two weeks. New user instructions are at: <http://elm.lib.overdrive.com/24EE780C-84F9-4989-9DDC-9F5D78116FA1/10/406/en/default.htm>

**7. New Business**

**a. Manitoba Library Associations' Conference**

Ms Burgess invited all Board members to the opening night dinner on Tuesday, May 18, which would provide an opportunity to network with library staff, trustees and vendors. Thirteen members expressed interest, and the absent members will also be consulted. Four members would like to attend some of the conference sessions. Due to their work schedules, most would be able to attend only one session. We are required to pay the member rate for a minimum of one day per delegate. Delegates were asked to present reports to the Board.

**b. Friends' Books and Brunch**

Ms Burgess said that the Friends of Winnipeg Public Library annually holds Books and Brunch, one of the Friends' major fundraisers, and a wonderful event. Each year

guest speakers are asked to share "Books I have known and loved". On May 2 at The Gates on Roblin the speakers will be Ron Robinson, the former CBC Radio weekend host and literary personality, and author Joan Thomas, winner of many awards for Reading By Lightning. Ms Burgess encouraged Board members to purchase tickets at \$48, for which a \$10 tax receipt will be issued.

**c. Scotiabank Donation**

Mr. Walker said that, through the Scotia Employee Volunteer Program, the Bank may donate up to \$1,000 per year to charitable organizations to which employees contribute a minimum of 50 volunteer hours per year. For the third year Ms Burgess, as a Scotiabank employee and Library Board member, obtained the donation for Winnipeg Public Library. Mr. Walker said that the money will be used to buy young adult materials for Osborne Library's post-renovation reopening.

**8. Other Business**

**a. Guest speakers at the May and November meetings**

At the Board's request, an Elizabeth Fry Society representative has been invited to the May Board meeting, to speak briefly about the organization, and then to share details of a literacy program, implemented in partnership with St. John's Library, and funded by one of the Board's Language and Literacy grants. (EFS has placed the Board's logo, as one of its funders, on the EFS website.) The meeting will be at St. John's Library.

Also as the Board requested, the Millennium Park landscape architects will give an overview of the park design plans, at the November Board meeting.

**b. In camera**

The meeting moved *in camera* on a motion by V. DePape and seconded by C. Kolybabi-Labossière.

The Board returned to a meeting of the whole on a motion by C. Kolybabi-Labossière and seconded by J. Mabee.

**9. Date and Location of the Next Meeting**

**Monday, May 3, 2010, 5:00 p.m.  
St. John's Library, 500 Salter Street**

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by C. Kolybabi-Labossière at 7:00 p.m.

## **Appendix A**

Manager's Report                      April 12, 2010

### 1. Floating Collections

Floating collections were established in June 2008 and included only DVD's and Express Bestsellers. The Library has not seen a noticeable increase in circulation as a result of the implementation of floating collections. Some branches have seen increases in the number of titles available in their branches. Others have been less affected. We will be reviewing in more detail the finding from the project to determine whether to continue with floating collections or to make changes to the collections involved.

### 2. Allan Patterson Event

We will have a plaque unveiling ceremony in honour of Allan Patterson on Saturday May 1, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Windsor Park Library. All Board members will be invited. There will be brief speeches by family, Rita Burgess and myself. Following the ceremony there will be refreshments in the area. Bob Frayer will be conducting an origami program for children from in the room at 1:30 p.m.

### 3. Keewatin Median Cut

I have provided information on the decisions that need to be made to my Director for discussion at an up coming Department Heads meeting. We are hoping that some progress can be made on ensuring capital funds are in place for this work in next year's capital budget.

### 4. Osborne/ Louis Riel Projects

Louis Riel Library will be closing for approximately 6 weeks from mid-May until the end of June. Osborne Library will be closed for approximately 6 weeks from the beginning of August until mid-September. During this time new flooring, painting, counters, furniture and shelving will be put in pace in both branches.