

City of Bay Village

Council Minutes, Committee Session
Conference Room

May 12, 2014
7:30 p.m.

Paul A. Koomar, President of Council, Presiding

Present: Clark, Henderson, Koomar, Lee, Lieske, Tadych, Mayor Sutherland

Absent: Mr. Vincent

Also Present: Law Director Ebert, Finance Director Mahoney, Community Services Director Bock, Police Chief Spaetzel, Fire Chief Lyons, Recreation Director Enovitch, Operations Manager Landers.

AUDIENCE

The following audience members signed in this evening: Dick Majewski, Russell Thompson, Tara Wendell, Conda Boyd, Jerrie Barnett, Mike O'Boyle, Lydia DeGeorge.

Jessica Breslin, Manager, Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library

Miss Breslin addressed the Council, administration, and audience as the Branch Manager of the Cuyahoga County Public Library since January of 2014. Miss Breslin stated that she has been very impressed with the level of engagement in Bay Village and is looking forward to making more collaborations. She has enjoyed collaborating throughout the years with parents, educators and community members to engage those of all ages in the resources that the library has to offer.

Branch at a Glance – Last year the Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library circulated approximately 195,000 items out of the branch. There are approximately 18,000 users that call Bay Village their home library. Residents of other Westshore communities use the Bay Village library as a resource and come to the branch from other library systems. There were 2000 hours logged on the public computers at the Bay library for Internet access.

The Cuyahoga County Public Library was again named a Five-Star Library in 2013. Executive Director Sari Feldman has just been elected President of the American Library Association. Ms. Feldman will serve a three-year term, first as President Elect, Acting President, and as Direct Past President.

The Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library has three major objectives:

- Foster a Community of Enthusiastic Readers
- Support Life-Long Learning
- Be an Essential Resource for the Community they serve – A place where Civic Engagement can thrive.

Initiatives under way at the Bay Village Branch include personalized recommendations. If you stop in and talk to any of the knowledgeable staff and ask them what they are reading they are happy to give suggestions. They are also in the middle of the year “What to Read 365” which is 365 days’ worth of reading suggestions, tips and trivia. They have teamed up with the *Westlake/Bay Village Observer* to run a monthly feature article called, “What Your Neighbors are Reading.” The Bay Village Branch is interviewing Bay Village residents on a variety of subjects. They have covered Biography and History, Science Fiction, and Poetry.

The library also has recommendations on their website, cuyahogalibrary.org, one of which is called “Three for Three.” If you give the library the last three names of books that you read and enjoyed, they will provide, via email three books of interest. More in depth is “Read Into It,” which involves filling out a survey of ten to twelve questions regarding what you like to read and the library will send a list of ten great reads.

Miss Breslin stated that it is not just the physical book collection that is available. The library has invested in thousands and thousands of E-book titles. If you have a Kindle or a Nook, or I-Pad or phone, or PC at home and want to try something new, they have downloadables available. They are starting clinics on Wednesday evenings in the fall, when you can drop in, bring your device and they will help access all of those the materials from the library’s website for free.

The Summer Reading Game will start June 7 and run through August 16, 2014. Research shows that students that do not read over the summer have a significant slide on where they are when they start school in the fall. Families are encouraged to sign up with their children and read with their children. There is also a big Summer Reading Kick-off on Saturday, June 7 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. with celebrity readers including Police Chief Mark Spaetzle, a firefighter, Representative Nan Baker, and Representative Tom Patton. Activities that day include crafts and The Bubble Lady to entertain and amaze the guests with her bubble creations.

Beyond the Summer Reading Game and reading, the folks at the Bay Village Library also feel that it is important to connect to Lifelong Learning, starting from birth and moving through the Senior Years. The library has Early Literacy Story Times, which are fun and engaging for little ones and informative for parents. They also have Book Buddies, pairing young readers with older children to practice reading skills. The library has a robotics camp and a music production camp with the Progressive Arts Alliance over the summer. Ongoing book discussions are held monthly throughout the summer, led by the knowledgeable adult staff.

Miss Breslin stated that they really want to transform the branch into a Center of Learning. They are tapping into what they feel our community likes to learn about, and likes to know about. Dr. James Banks will visit the library on Tuesday, May 13, speaking on the pioneering techniques in combat medicine that were developed by Cleveland Surgeon George Washington Crile, who led the establishment of the world-famous Cleveland Clinic. Attendees will explore the development of combat medicine from World War 1 to present.

The third annual Ice Cream Social, featuring Mitchell’s Ice Cream, will be held on Wednesday, June 25, at 6 p.m. A guest from the Gathering House will speak on Exploring Spirituality using

guided meditation and relaxation techniques. The Solid Waste Management District will visit the library and address the complexities of recycling and dispelling recycling myths.

The Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library wants to become a welcoming environment where customers can connect to one another and share their ideas, working to strengthen the community. They want to be a hub for community dialogue and a place where civic engagement thrives.

A Merchant of the Month Program has been started at the library by Miss Breslin. Over sixty local merchants were contacted, and within 24-hours merchants responded enthusiastically to be part of this new civic engagement piece. It is hoped to increase their visibility. As customers walk through the library there is a display highlighting the Merchant of the Month. The Merchant of the Month will also have a sign at their location to let their patrons know to visit the library to sign up for a drawing for prizes donated by the merchant. The first Merchant of the Month is Bob Howe from the Bay Barber Shop. A great response was also received from the owner of Nirvana Pizza at the Dover Commons Shopping Center. The only criterion is that the location has to be within Bay Village. A mixture of the small local businesses with some of the bigger franchises will involve the hosting of Heinen's, Java Bay, Subway, and Arthur's Shoe Tree.

Meeting rooms at the library are available for public use. They can be booked on line, with assistance from library staff if needed. The large meeting room accommodates 100 persons, and the smaller conference room accommodates 59.

In closing, Miss Breslin stated that they are looking forward to continuing collaborations with the Dwyer Memorial Center, the schools and trying to find further collaborations with the community. The volunteer group, Friends of the Bay Village Library, are very committed to the causes of the library. Miss Breslin recognized the presence of resident Jerrie Barnett who has volunteered at the library for twenty years.

Miss Breslin thanked everyone for their time this evening and stated that she looks forward to seeing everyone at the Bay Village Branch of the Cuyahoga County Library very soon.

Mr. Koomar called for comments from the audience.

Mary Tino, 29801 Osborn, addressed Council and the administration concerning her desire to install a privacy fence in her backyard. Mrs. Tino currently has a three-and-one-half foot chain link fence, and since Hurricane Sandy and downed trees they can see, from their house on Osborn, everyone going down Lincoln Road. She stated that they have no privacy and distributed a map of her property to Council. Mrs. Tino stated that the ordinance for a privacy fence states no more than 32 feet in one direction. Research has failed to show how that requirement was determined in 1973 when the ordinance was passed.

Mr. Koomar stated that the request for a variance is hardship based and if something past 32 feet in length for a privacy fence is requested a fence permit would first have to be applied for and then a variance application to the Board of Zoning Appeals. John Cheatham, Chief Building

Committee Meeting of Council
May 12, 2014

Official, SAFEbuilt, Inc., advised that Mrs. Tino would apply through SAFEbuilt. The Board of Zoning Appeals would visit the property to determine if there is a unique situation that warrants going more than 32 feet in length. The Board grants variances occasionally, but there has to be a unique situation.

Mr. Koomar noted that he has been approached through the years by residents who have solved their need for privacy screening by using a combination of fencing and evergreen screening with trees, shrubs and bushes.

Mr. Tadych commented that he believes the 32 feet in length maximum for privacy fencing was started to prohibit fencing throughout the whole community and to maintain openness to yards.

Law Director Ebert stated that he is sure the 32 feet was determined to prevent an obstruction to the neighbor's view. The Board of Zoning Appeals is the proper place to apply for a variance. The Board takes into consideration what the property owner is trying to achieve, how their property is unique, etc. The privacy area is one that has been explored on occasion. If people believe that 32 feet is not a proper distance then Council will refer the matter to committee to see if that ordinance is still justified based on how Bay Village has been built out. It is a very touchy subject on Lake Road, subject to litigation as far as fencing and views. The proper course for Mrs. Tino would be to apply to the Board of Zoning Appeals. The next step would be to have Council refer the ordinance to committee to determine how the restriction was originated. It may be unique for Mrs. Tino's particular situation, but may not be unique throughout the whole city. The Board of Zoning Appeals is very careful to try to maintain the openness in the community and not create a wall.

Mayor Sutherland advised that there was a potential case of a missing child this morning in Bay Village. There was a happy ending and the child was reunited with her parents. The Mayor commended the Fire Chief and Police Chief for quick action and wonderful coordination. The Auxiliary Police and CERT team were mobilized. Cleveland MetroParks brought in horses and dogs. Everyone worked together and there was a good outcome.

Due to tornado warnings, the remainder of the agenda items were postponed until the meeting of May 19, 2014 and the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Paul Koomar, President of Council

Joan Kemper, Clerk of Council