



**Oak Park Library Board
September 15, 2009**

Betty K. Johnson, Observer

The September meeting of the Board convened at 7:30 p.m. with six Trustees, the Executive Director and Assistant Director present .

Two visitors from the community asked to make statements to the Board. Mark Henry urged the Board to shop locally. Mr. Franklin asked that the Library reevaluate how computer time and space is allocated. Especially after 3:00 p.m. access to computers is not allocated evenly. Director Brennan acknowledged the problem and indicated that the Library will continue to work on it.

Irene Balks, Home Delivery Services, gave some history of this service and reported that volunteers currently are making 61 deliveries per week of books and videos to homebound Villagers . More than 2500 deliveries were made in 2008. Patrons are very appreciative and several have made donations to the Library.

Matt Fruth reported on the Finance committee meeting held September 14. The committee is looking at a number of areas in which costs could be reduced. A reduction in hours at the branch libraries could save as much as \$23,650. The amount spent to enable Library staff to attend conferences and workshops could be reduced. Decreasing the amount spent for computer replacements could yield as much as \$10,000. The salary line will be kept level with 2008 and 2009 allocations.

The Executive Director's report addressed the dramatic increase in circulation, computer classes, and other services and the resulting strain on staff. Circulation at the Main Library in August 2009 was 20% higher than in 2008. Plans are being finalized for the Poe Big Read which will include some innovative programming. Plans for becoming a SWAN library are ongoing. Self check-out is at 39.9% - the highest ever.

Assistant Director Madigan reported that landscaping at Maze, as well as some other details are being completed.

The annual Book Fair, a project of Friends of the Library, was held the first weekend in August.. 4,791 persons attended and the profit was \$63,000.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

(www.opl.org/about/board.html)