



PROTOCOL OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY
READERS ASSOCIATION
8 June 2018

Present: Arie Gus, Levi Cooper, Dena Ordan, Susan Fraiman, Dan Bitan,
Cana Werman, Nadia Zeldes, Robert Kaplan, Abraham Adler

Decisions:

Dena Ordan chaired the meeting.

The financial report for 2017 received unanimous approval.

The report of the association's activity in 2017 received unanimous approval.

Cana Werman was elected chairperson.

The following individuals were elected to the board: Nadia Zeldes, Dena
Ordan, Dan Bitan, Benjamin Richler.

The following were elected to the audit committee: Mordecai Nahmani and
Levi Cooper.

Topics Discussed:

1. *Building Maintenance*

In his meeting with Orly Simon (head of readers services) a day before the
AGM, Dan Bitan raised the topic of the poor standard of building
maintenance, which is inconsonant with the number of visitors or VIPs invited
to events at the library. In her response, Orly noted budgetary constraints,
which we found surprising.

Dan noted his impression that insufficient attention is devoted to crucial
decisions on cleaning, climate control, and infrastructure and expressed
concern that this approach will continue in the new building. Some examples:
the inadequate lighting above the tables in the reading rooms, sockets that
take up work space on the tables, and overall lack of sanitation and
maintenance.

A decision was reached to voice our concerns regarding the rundown
condition of the building and the gap between the expected image of a
national library and the reality. Another question to be raised is whether the
cleaning team in the new building will be managed by an outside company or
whether there will be an in-house cleaning team, which we think preferable.

2. *Access to the library's financial reports*

Given the argument of budgetary constraints, we have decided to renew our
request for information regarding how and where the public can access the
library's financial reports.



3. *Library Wi-Fi*

Returning to the question of infrastructure, there was general agreement that the library does not invest sufficiently in the Wi-Fi and its maintenance. The internet is slow and the reading of books available only as e-books takes hours. We decided to request that the Wi-Fi be enhanced now (and not just in the new building).

UPDATE: THE WI-FI SYSTEM WAS ENHANCED IN JUNE.

4. *New copying machines*

The copying machines have been replaced by newer models and the cost of printing has been reduced. We intend to request that the working hours of the person in charge be posted.

5. *Merhav*

Dissatisfaction was voiced regarding the new Merhav on the library website. It is slow; the number of "hits" is not immediately visible; it is not clear how to access the individual pages; the home screen does not contain all the search categories; the information in the catalog is not provided in a consistent fashion.

Susan Fraiman has volunteered to draw up a list of issues.

6. *Databases*

- a. Abraham Adler commented on the lack of clarity regarding the databases made available to readers by the library. He protested the decision to cancel access to Lexis-Nexis and requested that the library make public which databases are available to the public and how many readers use each one.
- b. Dan Bitan noted the unsystematic nature of acquisition of databases and the frequent changes to the list. He suggests that a member of the administration be appointed to coordinate the purchase of, or subscriptions to databases, and to maintain ongoing contact with the suppliers.
- c. Nadia Zeldes noted that only a small number of users can access the Bar-Ilan Responsa project online simultaneously which seems incongruous in the most important library in the world for Jewish studies.

A DECISION WAS REACHED TO SEND OUR COMMENTS AND REQUESTS TO THE ADMINISTRATION



7. Wikipedia editing

Robert Kaplan raised the question of why the library is sponsoring training for Wikipedia editing. Because this question does not directly impact readers, we suggested that he approach the administration directly.

8. Work stations in the new building

At their meeting with the committee planning the new building, a request was made of Dan Bitan and Susan Fraiman that the readers submit suggestions regarding the planned work stations in the new building: size, lighting, chairs, etc. Due to the short timeframe offered, the board of the readers association made some suggestions which were favorably received.

Additional decisions

1. A decision was reached to try to meet with Orly Simon twice a year.
2. We decided to request a meeting with Elhanan Reiner (academic director of the library) and the curators in order to discuss library acquisitions policy and to determine who decides how many and what books are currently placed in the reading rooms and what are the projections for the new building.