

Muscogee County Library Board
Thursday, March 22, 2007
Columbus Public Library

Minutes

Members Attending:

Jay Alexander	Linda Harper	Price Walker, Jr.
Alice Budge	Meridith Jarrell	Helene Watson
Mimi Childs	Kelly Pridgen	Patricia Hugley-Green
Jimmy Elder	David Rothschild	John Phillips
Cindy Garrard	Murray Solomon	John Wells
Lisa Goodwin	Bobsie Swift	

Members Excused:

Trenna Trice
Tom Wade

Others Attending:

Claudya Muller, CVRLS Director
Donna Osborne, CVRLS Deputy Director
Gary Wortley, Chief Operations Officer
Lyn Anderson, CVRLS Finance Manager
Suzanne Barnes, CVRLS, CLASS/Counties Coordinator
Bob Myers, CVRLS IT Manager
Kathy Turton, CVRLS, Relay for Life Coordinator
Sarah Boyd, CVRLS, Reference Department
T.J. Melvin, Columbus Technical Institute
Greg Ellington, Hatcher Stubbs Attorneys at Law
Michael Herndon, Education Park Coalition
Nolan Murrah, Education Park Coalition
Josh McKoon, Education Park Coalition
Harry Franklin, Columbus Ledger-Enquirer
Ryan Clements, Newton Aaron & Associates
Newt Aaron, Newton Aaron & Associates
Michael Herndon, Education Park Coalition
Nadine Moore, CHAWANA
Gloria Lutrell Thomas, Wynnton Area Citizen

MINUTES

Chair Bobsie Swift called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Meridith Jarrell moved for the approval of the February 22, 2007 meeting minutes as distributed. Lisa Goodwin seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Jimmy Elder moved for the approval of the minutes of the special called meeting on February 26, 2007 as distributed. Jay Alexander seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.**

PUBLIC COMMENT

The chair called on T.J. Melvin. Mr. Melvin from Columbus Technical College presented the results of a survey he conducted for the Education Park Coalition. A copy of the report is attached to these minutes.

Chair Swift recognized Josh McKoon in his capacity as both a private citizen and the attorney for the Education Park Coalition. Mr. McKoon's comments are attached to these minutes.

The Chair recognized Nadine Moore. Ms Moore expressed strong opposition against any houses being built on the property surrounding the library. She stressed how congested the area already is and that what the community needed here was greenspace. Gloria Lutrell Thomas also addressed the board. She is a resident of the area and spoke strongly in opposition to houses being built on the property surrounding the library.

The Chair recognized Kathy Turton. Ms. Turton represented the library's Relay for Life team and requested that board members support the team's fundraising efforts. She also offered to provide forms if board members wish to participate in the Relay for Life walk or if they wish to honor a survivor or another individual with a luminary.

The Chair read a letter from Patty Chamberlain. Ms. Chamberlain is resigning from the library. Ms. Chamberlain thanked the board for their support of library programming during the past two years and urged the board to continue to support programming at the library by participating and attending programs.

FRIENDS OF LIBRARIES

Alice Budge presented the report of the Friends of Libraries for this month. She listed the activities that are being funded by the Friends this month. A copy of her report is attached to these minutes.

BOARD EDUCATION/ORGANIZATION

Chair Bobsie Swift recognized Sarah Boyd, Head of Adult Services. Ms. Boyd presented an overview of the reference department's work. She explained the impact of new technology on library services and described for the board some of the activities that staff were now doing to

take advantage of Web 2.0 and social networking sites to promote library usage. The board asked questions of Ms. Boyd and thanked her for her excellent presentation.

Chair Bobsie Swift read a letter from Dr. Linda Hadley resigning from the board because of scheduling conflicts. Meridith Jarrell moved to accept Linda Hadley's resignation with regret. Linda Harper seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Murray Solomon presented the Period 8 Financials. Meridith Jarrell asked about the high use of benefits. Lyn Anderson explained that the benefits costs were high because of worker's compensation claims.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Claudya Muller asked the board to please put the Worldviews lecture schedule for April 5 on their calendars. She had no further additions to the report that was previously distributed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Facilities Committee. Kelly Pridgen moved for the approval of the Facilities Committee's recommended list of building needs, books and FF&E. Mr. Rothschild asked to speak to the issue. He moved that the list be sent back to the Facilities Committee for reconsideration. Murray Solomon seconded the motion. There was lengthy discussion of Mr. Rothschild points. Cindy Garrard called the question. Murray Solomon seconded the motion. Linda Harper opposed cutting off discussion at that time. **The motion to call the question passed unanimously.**

Kelly Pridgen then re-presented the motion to approve the list as finalized by the facilities committee. Linda Harper asked questions about a number of the individual items. Lisa Goodwin asked whether the reading garden was in the original plan. Claudya Muller explained that it had been but had been eliminated for lack of funds. Murray Solomon read a statement explaining his opposition to the needs list as it now stands. He felt that some of the items included were not appropriate for purchase with SPLOST funds. He felt that greenspace around the library was what the people expected. Meridith Jarrell called the question. Lisa Goodwin seconded the motion. **The motion to call the question passed unanimously.**

The motion to approve the list passed by a vote of 9 to 4. David Rothschild, Murray Solomon, Linda Harper voted against the motion; Lisa Goodwin abstained. Nine board members voted in favor of the motion; Jay Alexander, Alice Budge, Mimi Childs, Jimmy Elder, Cindy Garrard, Meridith Jarrell, Kelly Pridgen, Price Walker, Helene Watson. Alice Budge asked for a point of clarification. She wanted to know whether the city would handle the needs list as a unit or as separate pieces. Bobsie Swift responded that the city asked for the list to be presented as a unit but we did not know how they would actually handle it. Alice Budge suggested it would be important for someone to be in attendance at their meetings to answer questions. Bobsie Swift assured Dr. Budge that there would be in fact be board and staff members in attendance at the city meetings.

Jimmy Elder then asked a point of privilege and asked a question of Dr. John Phillips. He asked whether there was anything the library board could have done to guarantee no houses would be built on this property. Dr. Phillips explained that only the school board has the authority to make the decision on the property that it owns. Jimmy Elder then moved that the library board in respect of Mr. Rothschild, Mr. Solomon, Ms. Harper ideas and with respect to the public comments to keep greenspace write a letter to the school board and the city council making a firm request that the property not be put into hands that will create housing on property adjoining the library. Meridith Jarrell called for the question. Murray Solomon seconded the motion. **The motion to call the question passed unanimously. The motion to send the letter passed unanimously.**

Operations Committee: In the absence of the Chair, Helene Watson, Meridith Jarrell presented the policy recommendations from the Operations Committee. Policy GOV6 – Board Meeting Agendas **passed unanimously.** Policy MNG4 – Meeting Room Use **passed unanimously.** Alice Budge asked the meeting room use policy (MNG4) allowed for fundraisers to be done by the Friends of Libraries. The Chair told her that Friends of Libraries were covered in that provision.

Position Reclassification. Meridith Jarrell of the committee moved that Deborah Clark, Children’s Assistant at the Mildred Terry Branch Library be reclassified to Children’s Associate and that this change take effect April 1. Moved to Pay Band B, Zone 1 with a salary of \$35,534. **The motion passed unanimously.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Bylaws. David Rothschild moved on behalf of the Bylaws Committee to approve this second reading of the Bylaws changes. Jimmy Elder seconded the motion. **The motion passed unanimously.** Mr. Rothschild suggested that a clean copy of the revised bylaws be distributed to each board member as soon as possible.

There being no further business meeting adjourned at 2:40.m. Next meeting date April 26, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Atch(s)

T.J. Melvin Survey Report 3.07
Josh McKoon Remarks 3.22.07
S. Boyd, Ref. Dept. 3.22.07
P. Chamberlain Ltr 3.22.07
FOL Report 3.22.07
Dr. Hadley Ltr 2.2207
Bylaws Revision 3.22.07

Minutes by: Vivian’s Virtual Secretary