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PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Library Board of Trustees

March 21st, 2002

Dickson Board Room - Main Library

Charlotte, North Carolina

TRUSTEES PRESENT STAFF PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

C. Don Steger, Chairman

Patsy Kinsey

Robert Bisanar

Rev. William Wood, Vice Chair

Patty Norman

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Laura Foxx

Kathi Knier Robert Cannon, Executive Director

Judith Sutton, Deputy Director

Carol Myers

Dick Pahle

Helene Blowers

Rich Rosenthal

Rita Rouse

Melanie Huggins

Sam Scott

Steve Matheny

Chuck Burns

Joe King

Burnie Henderson

Mary Timmons

Valerie Truesdale

Bucky Lee

Linda Vitlar Robert Stephens, Attorney

Michele Wayman, Reporter

MINUTES

Chairman Don Steger called meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

Director Cannon introduced the Maintenance Department and presented the Director's Award to Sam Scott, Steve Mathey, Joe King, Chuck Burns, Burnie Henderson, Mary Timmons, Valerie Truesdale, and Bucky Lee. Sam Scott the Manager of the Maintenance Department recognized his entire staff for exemplary service.

Director Cannon introduced Helene Blowers the Manager of Web Services who shared the Library's recognition for the following; the February issue of School Library Journal in an article entitled "Reaching and Teaching Young Adults" praised the Library for it's Reader's Club for Teens. In March 2002 LibrarySpot.com named the Library's website HealthLink Plus, Reference Site of the Year. Lastly, the March/April issue of Public Library published an article highlighting another library website, Brarydog (article attached).

Director Cannon introduced Rita Rouse, Public Relations Director who introduced a new staff member in programming, Conchy Farrell, Spanish Language

Coordinator. Ms. Farrell outlined three new programs for the coming months; “El saber no ocupa edad” (“Knowledge is not a matter of age”), “El sobre primoroso” (“The Dainty Envelope”) in conjunction with the exhibit in Gallery L, and “El secreto mejor guardado” (“The Best Kept Secret”).

Director Cannon, on behalf of Board Member, Patsy Kinsey, distributed a proposal (see attached) that the Library Board of Trustees support a resolution in support of the State’s present system of Alcoholic Beverage Control. Reverend Wood moved that the resolution be adopted, Patsy Kinsey seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. Rich Rosenthal, Director of Operations, referred to the Sugar Creek Service Center operating agreement memorandum and tabulations attached to the agenda. The City Council approved the agreement last month and the Library is asking the Board of Trustees to approve it so that it can be executed. Patsy Kinsey moved to approve the recommendation, Reverend Bill Wood seconded and the motion passed unanimously

The Minutes of the February 2002 meeting would be re-submitted to the Trustees in April.

Rich Rosenthal, Director of Operations, reviewed three new joint use opportunities for the library:

South Neighborhood Branch. This project is located in the extreme southern portion of Mecklenburg County and would involve co-locating a middle school, a high school, and a new library. County Park and Recreation may participate also. The library would be a free standing building located at the entrance to the property, eliminating or minimizing conflicts with school traffic.

Hickory Grove School. This proposal would relocate the Hickory Grove Branch Library to the site of the current Hickory Grove Elementary School. In this project, a new elementary school, the library, and a park would co-locate.

Ridge Road. The library is investigating the acquisition of property currently owned by the City of Charlotte adjacent to Fire Station 31 on Ridge Rd. A community library is indicated in that area by the Facilities Master Plan.

Rosenthal asked the Board to authorize staff to negotiate two contracts for feasibility studies associated with two of the joint use projects. The first recommendation was to contract with Pease & Associates for a feasibility study of the Hickory Grove project. The purpose is to evaluate the suitability, architectural feasibility, and cost implications to renovate a portion of the existing building vs. demolition and new construction. The second recommendation was to contract with The Adams Group to do a feasibility study to determine if the Fire Station 31 site is suitable for the construction of a community library. Each of these contracts would be less than \$5,000. Rosenthal asked the Board to exempt itself from G.S. 143-64.31 because the cost of each contract is less than \$30,000. Reverend Wood moved to approve the staff request; Patty Norman seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously. Patsy Kinsey excused herself from voting.

Director Cannon requested that the Board of Trustees approve the Budget Transfers (attached to these minutes). Patsy Kinsey moved to approve the recommendation, Patty Norman seconded, and the action passed unanimously. Director Cannon told the board he would keep them up to date about the budget as more became known.

Director Cannon also informed the Board of Trustees of the impending crisis of the HVAC system at Main Library, currently running at 50% capacity. Reverend Wood acknowledged the potential danger of damaging equipment, materials as well as patron discomfort. The cost of replacing HVAC is \$200,000+ and the library has two bid options; lease purchase or purchase. Chairman Steger advised the Trustees that if necessary; he would call a special meeting to award a bid to replace the system as fast as possible.

Director Cannon brought the Trustees up to date about the Children's Learning Center budget. The buildings, as presented to the Trustees and public last month had just been priced the second time by an estimator. The estimated construction cost was now \$23.5 million, \$1.5 million over the construction budget of \$22 million. Director Cannon pointed out that he had already pulled

out theatre seating, landscaping and theatre equipment from the construction budget to meet the budget but now it looked like additional items needed to be deferred or cut. He mentioned that the Ed Schlossberg design elements were never included in the construction budget and that they were never funded by the bond money. (He was still working on the Schlossberg proposal, getting it down from \$8 million to the \$2 - \$3 million level). Director Cannon said the architect recommended, as one choice for savings, the elimination of the parking deck, which now consisted of about 80 spaces, saving \$1 million. The deck had already been reduced from the original program of 200 spaces due to budget problems. Director Cannon said a decision had to be made right away because the deck couldn't be taken out and added later. The project was now into the construction drawing phase.

Director Cannon said the Levine family would provide whatever parking was needed right on 7th Street. There would be charges to the public even though the first half-hour or hour would be nominal or free. However, Director Cannon said even if the Children's Learning Center kept its deck, charges would have to be made to help pay for its operations.

Pros for keeping the deck included having some spaces easily available for the disabled, for vans with day cares and children and for general customers. Cons included its size (too small, thus frustrating customers), the ongoing operational costs and of course the present construction shortfall.

After considerable discussion, Reverend Wood moved that the Director make every effort to keep the parking. This motion was seconded by Bob Bisanar.

Patsy Kinsey said she thought the parking deck could be eliminated for budget reasons and that the Director have the authority to remove it if necessary. Patty Norman thought the motion was too vague in giving the staff direction on the deck or on the budget problems. She didn't like that the project kept cutting feature after feature.

Once discussion was concluded, a vote was taken.

Reverend Woods motion passed 3 – 2. Voting yes was Reverend Wood, Bob Bisanar and Don Steger. Patty Norman

and Patsy Kinsey voted no.

The Trustees also agreed that members of the library board and the Children's Theatre board would meet with the staff and architect to go over the budget problems and develop strategies to deal with all of them (construction and other). Don Steger and Patty Norman would represent the library.

Rich Rosenthal, Director of Operations reported that he has been involved with the owners of the prospective library site at Myers Park. He met with the Myers Park Homeowners Association regarding the plans for the new Myers Park Branch Library. More information will be forthcoming.

With no further business Chairman Don Steger adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Cannon

Secretary

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