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### PUBLIC LIBRARY OF CHARLOTTE AND MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Library Board of Trustees

October 17, 2002

Library Auditorium - Main Library

Charlotte, North Carolina

TRUSTEES PRESENT STAFF PRESENT OTHERS PRESENT

Don Steger, Chairman

Bill Wood

Laura Foxx

Patsy Kinsey

Patty Norman

Bob Bisanar  
Robert Cannon, Executive Director  
Rich Rosenthal  
Dick Pahle  
Rita Rouse  
Melanie Huggins  
Carol Myers  
Susan Harden  
Patrice Ebert  
Gail Stem  
Pam Fox  
Bob Stephens, Library Attorney  
Meg Maloney  
Michelle Wayman, Reporter  
Simone Acque, President of the Friends of the Library  
(interim)  
Carla DuPuy, past CTC Board Chairman  
Linda Lochman-Brooks, CTC Board Chairman  
CTC Executive Board & Staff  
Jeff Huberman, Gantt Huberman Architects  
Dan Levine  
Gantt Huberman Staff

## MINUTES

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

Director Cannon introduced architect Jeff Huberman of Gantt Huberman Architects to discuss the construction budget of the Children's Learning Center. Past Children's Theatre President Carla DuPuy, current President Linda Lochman-Brooks, members of the Executive Board of Children's Theatre and Executive Director Bruce La Rowe were present.

Mr. Huberman discussed the budget problems with the group. Basically, the architects and contractor Rogers-Harden were at a standstill until they received direction about how to proceed. Over the past three years, the project and its budget had been reduced many times but we were now at the point that if anything else were eliminated, the entire project and its ultimate goals would be compromised. The construction budget at \$23,200,000 was over budget and there were two options: (A.) revise the design, taking out features and finishes but still having to cut another \$800,000, or (B.) delete the below building parking structure, but still having

to cut another \$400,000. After some group discussion about the two alternatives, Trustee Patsy Kinsey made a motion that the second option be taken. Trustee Foxx seconded this motion. The motion was defeated 5-1, with Trustee Kinsey voting for the second option.

The consensus of the group was to keep the design features that remained from all the previous reductions but most felt that the minimum parking left was very important too. Daniel Levine spoke about his company's plans for a park and parking between 7th and 9th Streets but many at the meeting believed that his project was not certain and there was a desire to have dedicated parking regardless of his plans. It was further discussed that the adjacent location of the arena would greatly impact nearby parking, making parking during game times extremely critical.

After further discussion, where several Children's Theatre and Library Board members, staff and volunteers spoke for the minimum parking plan, Trustee Wood made a motion, seconded by Trustee Norman, to delay signing the construction contract until a feasibility study for fundraising could be made by the Library and Children's Theatre and for the Library Board to choose another option, that is, an Option C, to attempt to raise the funds needed for the parking structure but keep the building as it was designed currently. The architect and contractor said the cost for this would be \$1.8 million, making the total contract amount \$25,000,000. Trustee Kinsey was the only Trustee to vote against this motion, which consisted of a vote of 5 yes and 1 no. It was clear that there were also other fundraising needs – for the Edwin Schlossberg computer inter-active software and hardware, for upfit of the 250-performance place and for shelving, computers, carpeting and furnishings for the library. These additional needs were currently priced at \$5 million.

After this vote, the Children's Theatre Executive Board and staff went to the Dalton Room to continue their Board meeting. The Library Board stayed in the auditorium.

[A document from the Children's Theatre Executive Board was received by the Library Board while its meeting continued. The document provided the following

assertions, that “Recognizing what the library has already done, the Children’s Theatre Executive Committee is committed to pursuing the following 5 avenues to build the CLC: 1. Pursue in-kind donations of supplies, 2. Pursue Certificates of Participation, 3. Work with the library to pursue the use of 2/3rd’s bonds availability, 4. Work to help the Levine parking/park plan succeed and 5. Pursue private fundraising to meet budget requirements.”]

Director Cannon presented Accountant Gail Stem the Director’s Award for the month of October. Although she began her career in the library as a “floater”, a position stationed at the Myers Park branch that served the back-up staffing needs of several branch libraries in 1980, Gail accepted a position in the business office in 1986. According to her supervisor, Charles Mallas, Gail is an “exceptionally articulate individual with a penchant for handling a large workload in the most efficient manner.” Gail handles all payables and the payroll. Director Cannon pointed out that although the budget had grown from \$7 to \$28 million in the past 16 years, the staff in the Finance/Business Office had not grown (it remained a staff of four). “Dependable and efficient, with an eye for catching the smallest of mistakes,” says Charles Mallas, “Gail could handle the entire department by herself, if she had to.” Gail Stem is truly a valued member of the Finance Department, Library Administration and the entire library system. In a quick report to the Board, Director Cannon said that the Board of County Commissioners had criticized the Facilities Master Plan when it was presented to them informally, especially about how the plan related to future CMS library facilities. He said he and the staff were working through the issues with the Commissioner’s Efficiency and Effectiveness Committee, as well as CMS. He said he would keep the Board up to date about this issue as it developed. Director Cannon told the Board that Trustee Laura Foxx had just been re-appointed by the Board of Education for a term ending in 2006. He also handed out the 2001 audit to board members, noting that the audit was completely positive and that it would also be turned in to the Mecklenburg County Finance Department as required.

Director Cannon told the Board that CitySearch.com had recognized Gallery L in the Main Library as the “Best Free Attraction in Charlotte.” And Creative Loafing newspaper had given Best of Charlotte 2002 awards to the library for Novello, the Summer Film Series, Best Book Published Locally and runner-up for Best Video/DVD Selection.

Chief of Public Services, Carol Myers, introduced Patrice Ebert from the Morrison Regional Library, as our guest Area Manager of the month. As for the “Service Improvement of the Month”, Carol provided the Board with these four recently implemented improvements: (1.) At first checkout, a new patron could borrow any five items (instead of one). (2.) The ceiling on the number of holds allowed per person would increase from 10 to 20. (3.) The loan period for videos and DVD’s would increase from 2 to 3 days. (4.) The rental charge for books on disk would no longer be charged. The library plans to present the Board service improvements every month, year round.

On a motion by Patsy Kinsey, seconded by Bill Wood, the minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously.

Chairman Steger asked for volunteers for the Nominating Committee for 2003 Officers (Chairman and Vice-Chairman). Trustees Patsy Kinsey and Patty Norman volunteered. They will present a recommended slate at the November meeting.

Rich Rosenthal said he was not ready to provide the Board a new name for the new Coulwood library but that he would be at the November meeting.

Director Cannon said that one small budget transfer would be attached to these minutes. And Rich Rosenthal said the bid award for the furnishings for the Steele Creek library would be presented at the November meeting also.

Mr. Rosenthal also made a recommendation for a contractor to build the new Steele Creek Branch library.

On a motion by Trustee Norman, seconded by Bill Wood, passing unanimously, it was agreed that the low bid of \$2,011,800 be accepted at that a contract for that amount be given to Beam Construction Company.

At this point in the meeting, it was moved and seconded

and agreed to unanimously that the Board go into closed session under G.S. 143-318.11(a) (3).

Returning from closed session, members of the Board again discussed the budget issues related to the Children's Learning Center. Laura Foxx pointed out how competitive and tight the fundraising market was currently. Other board members and staff agreed that the task would be difficult. Bob Cannon reported that he and Bruce La Rowe had already met with fundraising counsel Lauren Batten, Parks Helms and had meetings set up with leaders at Bank of America to seek advice.

There being no further business before, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

The next meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Thursday, November 21 at noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E. Cannon, Secretary

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