

Future of the Library Task Force



MEETING NUMBER #2

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Charlotte Mecklenburg Library— Its History, Structure, Powers, and Responsibilities

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Charlotte Carnegie Public Library



- Charlotte applied for a “Carnegie Library” in 1901
- \$25,000 donated by Andrew Carnegie
 - Charlotte must furnish site and \$2,500 annually
 - Part of 1,689 “Carnegie Libraries” across the nation

Act of N.C. General Assembly



- Library created in 1903 by legislation and subsequent amendments
- Purpose and duty: “ Provide free library service”
- Separate Corporate Body with the Power to:
 - Acquire and hold real estate by purchase, gift, etc;
 - Acquire and hold personal property in like manner; and
 - Contract and be contracted with.
- City and County may levy taxes for the maintenance and support of the Library.

Governed by its Board of Trustees



- 11 Trustees: 10 appointed by BOCC; 1 by School Bd.
- The Board has the Power to:
 - Adopt rules and regulations for the Library;
 - Fix the duties and responsibilities of employees;
 - Sell, encumber, convey or otherwise dispose of real property (with the consent of the BOCC and City Council)
 - Prepare an annual budget; and
 - Extend privileges to non-residents upon the Board's own terms and conditions.

A Separate Governmental Entity



- Created by an Act of the General Assembly
 - Not created by Mecklenburg County or Charlotte
 - Has an independent board as compared to an advisory role
- Complies with Public Laws:
 - Open Meetings;
 - Public Records; and
 - Public Bidding.
- Sales Tax Refund
- Contributions are Tax Deductable