

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees
March 11, 2015, 12PM
Main Library Conference Center
303 North Laura Street

Board Members Present:

Erin Vance Skinner, Chair
Guy K. Anderson, Vice-Chair
Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins,
Foundation Liaison
Tim J. Anderson, Trustee
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Ronnie King, Trustee
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Jackie Perry, Secretary
Sybil Ansbacher, Trustee
Joshua R. La Bouef, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee

Others Present:

Barbara A.B. Gubbin
Director
Mark Merritt,
Deputy Director, Administration &
Finance
Amber Holley,
Manager, Youth Services
Eric Lawrence,
Assistant Director, Facilities &
Planning
Kathy Lussier,
Manager, Community Relations &
Marketing
Julie McNeil,
Assistant Director, Public Services
Gretchen Mitchell,
Assistant Director, Support Services
Richard Mott,
Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Bob Silkett,
Region Manager, Pablo Creek
Region
Aubrey Winship,
Facilities Manager
Andrew Herron,
Exec. Assistant to the Director

Janet Wesley,
Interim Director of Development,
Jacksonville Public Library
Foundation
Larry Roziers,
Duval County Public Schools
Paul Martinez,
Director, Intra-Governmental
Services
John Sawyer,
Assistant General Counsel
Luis Flores, Chief, Public Buildings
Denise Lee
City Council Member
Michelle Tappouni
City Council Candidate

Margaret Smith,
Friends of the Jacksonville
Public Library
Florence Cunningham,
Friends of the Brentwood Library
Roxanne Henkle,
Friends of the Willowbranch Library
Judy Klein,
Friends of the Murray Hill Library
Celia Miller,
Friends of the Dallas Graham Library
Patty Parrish,
Friends of the Maxville Library

Honorees and Guests: Betty Person,
DeLon Rowan, Erica Brown, and
Cranston Burney

Call to Order

Chair Erin Vance Skinner called the meeting to order at 12:10PM. A quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests and Comments from Members of the Public

Denise Lee, City Council Member, District 8, spoke of her concern for the library and its branches in her district. Michelle Tappouni, Candidate for the Group 5 At Large City Council seat, spoke of the high value she places on libraries and quality of life issues.

Honors & Recognition

Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) staff members were honored for reaching milestones. Betty Person received her 35-year pin for achieving 35 years of service to the city, while DeLon Rowan was presented with a gold card in recognition of her upcoming retirement after 27 years of dedicated service.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Ronnie King moved to approve the Board minutes of February 11th, 2015. Trustee Tim Anderson seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Renovations at the Willowbranch and Beaches Libraries

Luis Flores, Chief of Public Buildings for the City of Jacksonville, updated the Board on work at the Willowbranch and Beaches libraries, where challenges with remediation and a likely vendor default have slowed renovations. While no definite timeline exists, the city continues to pursue these projects' completion.

Presentation—An Overview of Youth Services, Jacksonville Public Library

Amber Holley, Manager of Youth Services, updated the Board on the ambitious youth programming activities of Jacksonville Public Library.

Chairman's Report

Chair Skinner alerted the group to recent events. Janet Wesley began work as the Library Foundation's Interim Director of Development on March 2nd in the wake of Executive Director Suzanne Hudson-Smith's departure. Patty Parrish was joining the meeting as a representative of the newest Friends group, the Friends of the Maxville Library. Legislation to let the library keep revenue from fines in a special Board managed trust fund for capital improvements (Bill 2015-53) passed the City Council's Rules Committee and has been deferred by the Finance and Recreation Committees. Chair Skinner thanked Trustees Guy Anderson and Charlie Kleeman for attending City Council committee meetings on the subject. The Florida Library Association's Library Day at the Legislature will occur on March 18th, when Director Gubbin and volunteering guests will travel to Tallahassee to speak with state legislators about the importance of State Aid for Libraries. The Argyle Library will celebrate its 10th anniversary on March 28th. Mario J Payne has been nominated by Mayor Brown to serve as the Board's 12th trustee, and Trustee Brenda Simmons-Hutchins has received the Mayor's Distinguished Service Award for her service in the community.

Committee Reports:

Finance Committee – Committee Chair Guy K Anderson reported that in this, the fifth month of the fiscal year, cuts in part-time and overtime budgets have left the library struggling to budget Sunday hours. Though pending legislation could allow the library to keep money from fines, that money would be devoted to a capital fund and is likely to decrease as library customers continue to shift from printed to electronic materials, which do not incur fines. The Conference Center has had a good month in terms of events and revenues, and to date it has not been negatively impacted by the emergence of a competing establishment across Hemming Park, Sweet Pete's.

Governance Committee – Committee Chair Ronnie King reported that an endowment is being established through the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation in honor of former Trustee Joy Korman. The committee approved naming a wall in the Main Library's children's room the "Joy G. Korman Discovery Zone."

The committee reviewed changes to the library's Exhibits policy, which provide guidelines for accepting materials material for exhibition (suitability of subject for intended audience, historical, regional or topical relevance, significance of the contributor and/or contributing groups) and attributes that will be considered undesirable (commercial, partisan, religiously exclusionary or illegal content).

Mr. King also alerted the Board that in future meetings, documents will be presented electronically more than in hard copy form.

Ad hoc Committee on the 2015 City Council Candidates Debate – Chair Brenda Simmons-Hutchins reported that the Times Union will be a media sponsor for the upcoming City Council Candidates Debates, to be held at four libraries.

Foundation Liaison – Foundation Liaison Simmons-Hutchins reported on the latest meeting of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation.

New Business –

Trustee King moved on behalf of the Governance Committee that the Board approve naming a wall in the Main Library's children's room for former Trustee and Board Chair Joy Korman, to be called the "Joy G. Korman Discovery Zone." The motion passed unanimously.

Trustee King moved on behalf of the committee to approve the revised Exhibits Policy [described under "Governance Committee," above]. The motion passed unanimously.

Assistant General Counsel John Sawyer explained to trustees how to navigate through any potential conflict-of-interest issues surrounding their relationships with political candidates in upcoming local elections.

Director's Report

Director Gubbin alerted the Board to the Federal Communications Commission's recently adopted stance in favor of net neutrality, classifying internet providers as public utilities, and why net neutrality is important to the library's ability to deliver data to customers. She also alerted trustees to the need to contact candidates for all elected offices and foster relationships between them and the library.

Trustee Comments and Reports on Five Core Areas of Responsibility

Chair Skinner invited trustees to consider using a new paper form that she feels is useful for organizing monthly goals.

Ex-Officio, Mayor's Office, and Foundation Reports

Larry Roziers, Paul Martinez, and Janet Wesley reported on their latest activities. Ms. Wesley took the opportunity to introduce herself to the Board.

Friends' Reports

Margaret Smith, Florence Cunningham, Roxanne Henkle, Judy Klein, Celia Miller, and Patty Parrish reported the latest activities of their Friends groups. Ms. Parrish requested that an old standing motion to close the Maxville Library be officially withdrawn.

Adjournment

Chair Skinner invited trustees to bring their laptops and tablets to next month's session to support the Board's shift from viewing printed documents to viewing electronic ones. The meeting was adjourned.

4/9/15
Eric V. Skinner

4/9/15
Janet Wesley