

Minutes  
Board of Library Trustees  
May 8, 2014  
Main Library, Conference Center Multi-purpose Room 1  
303 North Laura Street

Board Members Present:

Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Chair  
Erin Vance Skinner, Vice-Chair  
Guy Anderson, Secretary  
Sybil Ansbacher  
Marc Hardesty  
Ronnie King  
Jackie Perry  
Mark Wood  
Kimberly Davis, DCPS Representative  
Ex-Officio  
Bill Gulliford, Council President, Ex-Officio

Board Members Absent:

Gerald Reid  
Jim Selzer  
Greg Anderson, Councilmember,  
Ex-Officio

Others Present:

Barbara Gubbin, Director  
Carolyn Williams, Deputy Director  
Mark Merritt, Deputy Director  
Eric Lawrence,  
Assistant Director, Facilities  
Kathy Lussier, Manager of Community  
Relations & Marketing  
Karen Walker,  
Manager for E-Services & Digital Access  
Laura Minnich, Manager of Youth Services  
and Community Outreach  
Mitesh Sangani, Conference Manager  
Bob Silkett,  
Region Manager, Pablo Creek Region  
Aubrey Winship, Facilities Manager  
Andrew Herron,  
Exec Assistant to the Director (Minutes)

Kevin Hyde, Save Jax Libraries  
Paul Martinez, Mayor's Office  
Harry Reagan,  
Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library  
Sharon Coon,  
Friends of the Brentwood Branch Library  
Roxanne Henkle,  
Friends of the Willowbranch Library  
Judy Klein, Friends of the Murray Hill Library  
Award Winners Mentioned Under the  
"Awards Update" below  
(present only briefly)

Call to Order

Chair Simmons-Hutchins called the meeting to order at 12:02PM. A quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Chair Simmons-Hutchins introduced Director Gubbin's new assistant Andrew Philip Herron, then invited comments from members of the public. None were present.

Awards Update

Chair Simmons-Hutchins presented awards to staff members Ed Lien (for organizing the impressive series of free concerts at Main), Mark McMillian and Greg Royce (for salvaging facilities at Willowbranch from flooding), Sara Peretzman (for organizing

Snapshot Day at the Mandarin Branch), Nathan Fuller (for booking the World Arts Film Festival), Mike Shell (for stewarding the "Staff Action Plan"), Kelli Likins (for organizing SAT/FCAT training), and Luis Terron (for his work to make e-services more relevant to both English and Spanish-speaking customers).

#### Strategic Discussion – Kevin Hyde: Save Jax Libraries

Chair Simmons-Hutchins introduced Kevin Hyde of Save Jax Libraries, noting recent obstacles at the state level to implementing an Independent Library District. Hyde explained that we shouldn't read too much into those obstacles; substantive progress continues locally. On August 26<sup>th</sup>, a nonbinding straw ballot initiative will be put forward in favor of the measure. His group will focus on absentee voters, reminding them and others that the ballot initiative doesn't force the measure; it just ensures that everyone gets a chance to vote on it.

Arguments likely to be raised include that it is contrary to City Consolidation and that it could siphon off Pension Funds, an acute issue for the city at the moment. Group Discussion followed, where Trustees Simmons-Hutchins, Anderson, and Ex-Officio Gulliford discussed how to respond to these arguments. It was determined that ultimately it's a values issue – what do we value as a city? If one answer is, "Libraries," they need reliable funding.

Trustee Gulliford then discussed his own city task force, working on issues related to consolidation, and noted that some way – perhaps beyond an independent library district – has to be found to come up with a source of consistent funding for the library. More broadly, he senses a fiscal responsibility problem across the board in city finances over recent years – not ensuring adequate funding for obligations.

#### Staff Presentation – Eric Lawrence, "Capital Improvement Plan 2015"

Staff members Eric Lawrence and Aubrey Winship (Facilities) reprised their recent presentation to city officials on the Library's projects for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). They discussed planned renovations at the Beaches Branch, land acquisition for a new Oceanway Branch, introduction of automatic dispensers in numerous locales, renovations at the Mandarin Branch, expansion of the Café space at the Main Library, and – most forward looking – Children Centers and Collaborative Spaces at multiple locations, so that the library can better aid children, families, civic groups, artists, and entrepreneurs in their cooperative activities and learning.

#### Approval of Minutes

**Chair Simmons-Hutchins requested a motion to approve last month's meeting minutes. Trustee Wood seconded, and the motion passed with no opposition.**

#### Chairman's Report

Chair Simmons-Hutchins noted with joy that \$5.1M had been added to funding for State Aid. She thanked Ronnie King, Erin Skinner, Sybil Ansbacher, and Jackie Perry for attending the Bradham Brooks Library E-Classroom dedication. She commended Council President Bill Gulliford and Council Members Greg Anderson and Denise Lee for presenting the library with a resolution celebrating National Library Week, and, as importantly, she thanked the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, of the Brentwood Branch, of the Bradham Brooks Branch, of Willowbranch, of the Murray Hill Branch, and

of the Beaches Branch for a successful day at the Riverside Arts Market April 19<sup>th</sup>, where all fielded tables. Finally, gratitude went to Council Member Matt Schellenberg and Trustee Guy Anderson for their presence at the recent Naturalization Ceremony at the Mandarin Branch.

Trustees reported on their recent contacts with elected officials:

Director Gubbin traveled to Washington DC for National Library Legislative Day, advocating to Congressmen with the help of Trustee Jim Selzer and two other Florida library representatives.

Trustee King met with Council Member Schellenberg, who questioned the need to have so many physical libraries. King informed him that libraries are still an important meeting space and atmosphere for learning.

Trustee Wood had a meeting with Council Member Carter, who was adamant that the Maxville Branch not be closed.

Trustee Anderson met separately with Council Members Redman and Lumb, who seemed impressed when presented with a list of civic groups that used branches in their districts. He'll speak with CM Boyer soon, to a similar end.

Guy Anderson discussed the Task Force on Consolidated Government. The latest word is that they don't believe the library should be deconsolidated from the city.

Trustee Skinner discussed the City Council Special Budget Analysis Committee.

Committee Reports

Trustee Skinner recapped the Finance Committee's recent meeting, where Deputy Director Mark Merritt confirmed that there were no outstanding issues. Revenues are slightly behind anticipated, but personnel expenditures are on target, and the Conference Center has done well. Director Gubbin reported that Chair Skinner has been accepted into Leadership Jacksonville.

The Personnel Committee gave no report.

Trustee King recapped the Governance Committee's recent meeting, where a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends groups was discussed (see "New Business," below).

Trustee Ansbacher reported on the latest progress of the ad hoc Committee on the Learn to Read Contract. A contract was submitted recently. Though it met with some hesitance, Trustee Ansbacher believes that a satisfactory agreement is within reach.

The ad hoc Committee on Brentwood Repurposing gave no report.

Director's Report

Director Gubbin highlighted recent events:

Facilities work continues apace at the Beaches Library and Main Library, while Willowbranch's problems continue to be a work in progress. IT issues, however, are being dealt with.

In brighter news, Youth Services owes special kudos to Julie Pactor and Susan Mankowski for their refreshing Storybook Science training for the young, while Julie McNeil has been accepted into Leadership Jacksonville (along with Trustee Skinner, noted above). Interviews for vacant Board positions continue apace. We will participate in the summer lunch program again, and Summer Reading materials are ready to be distributed, thanks to Kathy Lussier and her staff.

The Main library has proposed to the Downtown Investment Authority that they fund a social worker to be located at the library, stay onsite, and offer assistance to those in need. This project would take place in cooperation with the Continuum of Care or Friends of Hemming Plaza.

#### Old Business

None.

#### New Business

Deputy Director Carolyn Williams updated the group on the recent MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that is being circulated to Friends' Groups on what is needed in the way of financial reporting, coordination, etc.

**Chair Simmons-Hutchins asked for a motion to approve the presentation and negotiation of the MOU, in its current form, to the Friends Groups. Trustee Ronnie King supplied the motion, and it was approved with no opposition.**

#### Ex-Officio Member Report

Paul Martinez put forward two questions re the Facilities CIP Presentation: First, he asked why renovation plans focus so heavily on the Beaches and Mandarin branches. Director Gubbin explained that those branches are top tier in terms of use but need renovation, as both were opened in 1986. Mr. Martinez also queried the reasons behind Automatic Dispenser placement. Director Gubbin answered that Fund the Future requests one in Oceanway until we open a branch there – a logical use of the technology.

#### Foundation Report

Foundation Director Suzanne Hudson-Smith was absent, needing to be in Orlando for the Florida Library Association Conference.

#### Friends' Reports

The Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library (Harry Reagan) reported on many events within their organizations and libraries, referencing especially the bright pink invitations we've all seen to recent Book Sales. Sharon Coon added further details, and Judy Klein alerted us to the difficulty they've had at the Murray Hill Library in keeping the windows clean. Mr. Martinez said he would follow up on this issue.

#### Comments from Members of the Public

None were present.

There were no further issues to discuss.

Future Meeting Dates

June 12, 2014 @ Main

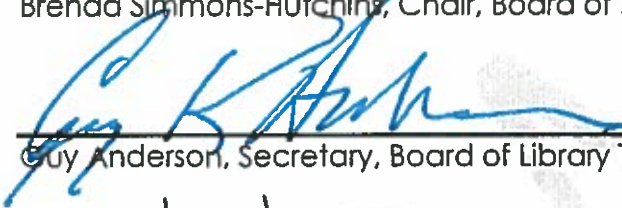
July 10, 2014 @ Main

The meeting adjourned at 2PM.



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Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Chair, Board of Library Trustees



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Guy Anderson, Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

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Date Approved by the Board of Library Trustees

