

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees
Main Library
Tuesday, July 30, 2013

Board Members Present:

Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Chair
Erin Vance Skinner, Vice-Chair
Christina Stallings, Secretary
Guy Anderson
Ronnie King
Jackie Perry
Sybil Ansbacher

Board Members Absent:

Mark S. Wood
Jim Selzer
Gerald Reid
Marc Hardesty

Others Present:

Barbara A.B. Gubbin, Director
Mark Merritt, Deputy Director
Andi Hammond, Executive Assistant to
the Director
Kathy Lussier, Manager of Community
Relations and Marketing

Carolyn Williams, Deputy Director
Richard Mott, Manager of Strategic
Initiatives
Julie McNeil, Assistant Director for Public
Services
Robbie Tiedeman, Facilities Manager

Call to Order

Chair Brenda Simmons-Hutchins called the meeting to order at 2:10pm; there was a quorum present. There were no members of the public present.

Business

Chair Simmons-Hutchins reviewed events that have taken place since the Board's July 11 meeting: City Council voted down pension reform legislation, City Council voted to increase the millage rate by 1.5 mils, and trustees have been meeting with various councilmembers. Director Gubbin reviewed the history of budget preparation for FY14 starting with the lights-on budget in April 2013 to the budget which was presented by the Mayor to City Council in July. Based on meetings with Councilmen Gulliford and Crescimbeni and on a memo from Councilman Anderson, the Board should discuss some alternatives to the current proposed budget. Councilman Crescimbeni said there may be a chance that the cut to the library's budget might be \$800,000; Councilman Anderson's memo gave departments the opportunity to recommend different scenarios to meet the 14% cut than what was presented to City Council. Trustees discussed what direction they want to take in considering potential budget cuts and what, if any, alternatives to present to City Council.

Trustee Anderson made a motion to remove from the table for discussion the \$2.4M budget cut for FY14. Trustee Stallings seconded the motion. Trustees discussed potentially reducing hours to 32 per week instead of closing libraries; it was agreed that this is not a viable option. Trustee Stallings pointed out that the Board had studied many factors and scenarios; the scenario that was presented to City Council is the best way to meet the \$2.4M reduction. **Trustee King called the question. The motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Simmons-Hutchins said that the next step is to discuss other options for the FY14 budget; Trustee King suggested that the Board recommend that there be no cuts to the library's FY14 budget. Trustee Skinner noted that the Board should still make prudent business decisions which may include closing branches that have been talked about outside of the budget discussion. Trustees reviewed scenarios for a reduction of \$800,000 in the FY14 budget.

Trustee King made a motion that the Board recommend the lights-on budget as originally requested by the Mayor's office. Trustee Anderson seconded the motion. Trustee Skinner reiterated her point about making prudent business decisions; Trustee Perry agreed with her citing the need to be credible—the Board had recommended the closure of the Maxville Branch Library in the Capacity Plan recommendations, outside

of budget discussions. Director Gubbin asked the Board to consider requesting an increase in the FY14 budget. Trustee King amended the motion to recommend an FY14 budget that is the same dollar amount as the lights-on budget but with a different service scenario. **Trustee Skinner called the question. The motion passed unanimously.**

Trustees discussed possible options for meeting the lights-on budget amount with a different scenario. Chair Simmons-Hutchins asked that staff provide scenarios for this amount to the Board at the next regular meeting. Trustees also asked that a special meeting be scheduled for the end of August in anticipation of feedback on new scenarios from councilmembers.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:15pm.



Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, Chair, Board of Library Trustees



Christina Stallings, Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

August 8, 2013

Date Approved by the Board of Library Trustees