

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees
August 14, 2014
Main Library, Conference Center Multi-purpose Room 1
303 North Laura Street

Board Members Present:

Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins, Chair
Erin Vance Skinner, Vice-Chair
Guy Anderson, Secretary
Sybil Ansbacher, Trustee
Ronnie King, Trustee
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee
Mark Wood, Trustee
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Tia Leathers, DCPS, attending for:
DCPS Representative, Ex-Officio

Board Members Absent:

Jackie Perry, Trustee
Jim Selzer, Trustee
Clay Yarborough,
Council President, Ex-Officio
Richard Clark,
Council Vice-President, Ex-Officio

Others Present:

Barbara Gubbin, Director
Carolyn Williams, Deputy Director
Eric Lawrence,
Assistant Director, Planning & Facilities
Mark Merritt,
Deputy Director, Administration & Finance
Gretchen Mitchell,
Assistant Director, Support Services
Kathy Lussier,
Manager, Community Relations &
Marketing
Julie McNeal,
Assistant Director, Public Services
Richard Mott,
Manager for Strategic Initiatives
Marshelle Berry, Region Manager
Jane Harris, Region Manager
Karen Walker,
Manager of e-Services & Digital Access
Mitesh Sangani, Conference Center Manager
Andrew Herron,
Exec. Assistant to the Director

John Sawyer
Office of the General Counsel
Gail Hunyar, President,
Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library
Helene Kamps-Stewart,
Friends of the Murray Hill Branch Library
Florence Rush-White,
Friends of Brentwood Branch Library
Roxanne Henkle,
Friends of the Willowbranch Library
Jerry Moran, La Cena Ristorante
Tim J. Anderson, BOLT Nominee

Call to Order

Chair Brenda Simmons-Hutchins called the meeting to order. A quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Chair Simmons-Hutchins welcomed newly appointed Trustee Charlie Kleeman and visitor Tia Leathers of Duval County Public Schools.

Awards and Honors

Chair Simmons-Hutchins presented the "Employee of the Quarter" award to Robert Moseley for reprogramming the cash register at the Mandarin Library to show the categories of items purchased, the "Enable Others to Act" award to Beverly Brown for developing a training class for staff to learn proper use of the public website, the "Encourage the Heart" award to Ann Fridl for creating the "Caught in the Act" initiative to reward excellent teamwork, the "Inspire a Shared Vision" award to Chelsea Partridge for her propagation of science education programs, and the "Challenge the Process" award to Gail Blumberg for implementing the library's uniform volunteer program.

Librarian Ed Lein, creator of the popular Music @ Main series, was honored on the occasion of his retirement.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Mark Wood moved to approve the Board minutes of July 10, 2014. Trustee Gerald Reid seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Strategic Discussion- Status of the FY2015 Library Budget

Chair Simmons-Hutchins mentioned that Library Director Barbara Gubbin and Deputy Director Mark Merritt appeared before the City Council's Finance Committee on August 8th for its hearing on the JPL budget. As of July 14th, the Mayor had proposed a budget with funds to strengthen library collections, to add ten extra weekly service hours to the Main Library, and to realize three capital projects; renovation of the library's G5 Promenade space to include adequate kitchen equipment, upgrades to the children's area at the Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, and redesigns to the Main Library's second floor to accommodate collaborative work spaces. However, budgeting challenges have led the City Council's Finance Committee to omit all but the first of those and to approve closing the Maxville Branch Library. On September 9th, the City Council will hold its public hearing on this issue.

Director Gubbin urged trustees and others to make clear to City Council Members that budget cuts at the local level make Jacksonville Public Library eligible for lower funding at the state level.

Trustees shared information on their recent contacts with elected officials.

Chairman's Report

Chair Simmons-Hutchins informed the group that Trustee Marc Hardesty has been approved for a first full term lasting until 2018. Nominee Tim J. Anderson has been rescheduled to appear before the Rules Committee on August 18th, due to a scheduling conflict, and Nominee Joshua LaBouef's appointment was deferred until certain information is provided by the Mayor's office.

Changes to the upcoming BOLT calendar are reflected publically on the website.

The company EnvisionWare visited the library on August 5th to explain the specifics of a 24-7 self-service library which might be placed in far-north Jacksonville until a proper branch library can be built. Chair Simmons-Hutchins thanked all who attended that presentation,

including Council Members Ray Holt and Richard Clark, as well as Trustees Erin Skinner, Jackie Perry, and Sybil Ansbacher. She also noted that Council Member Kimberly Daniels toured the Main Library recently with a group of school children.

Trustee Reports on Contacts with Elected Officials

Trustees shared details of their recent contacts with elected officials.

Committee Reports

Vice-Chair Erin Skinner reported on the Finance Committee's most recent meeting. She noted that revenue totals and expenditures are reasonably close to target for the current fiscal year as regards the General Fund, the Conference Center, State Aid, and other funds' budgets.

Trustee Gerald Reid reported on the Governance Committee's recent meeting. Discussions continue with the Friends of Hemming Park to specify details of their agreement to provide a social worker to work in the park as well as the Main Library in exchange for the library providing free space for their staging operations. Further negotiation continues between the library and the various Friends groups of the library regarding the Memorandum of Understanding they have been asked to approve with the Board of Library Trustees. The committee also approved a response to Jerry Moran, the local restaurateur who attended July's BOLT meeting and expressed his concerns about downtown parking space usage during Main Library Conference Center events.

Trustee Reid reported on the slate of nominees for Board Offices, chosen at the meeting of the Nominating Committee. Chair Simmons-Hutchins gave Board Members a chance to submit any further nominations. Hearing none:

For the committee's nomination of Erin Vance Skinner as Chair, Trustee Marc Hardesty moved to close nominations for the position of Chair. Trustee King seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

For the committee's nomination of Guy Anderson as Vice-Chair, Trustee Marc Hardesty moved to close nominations for the position of Chair. Trustee King seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

For the committee's nomination of Jackie Perry as Secretary, Trustee Ronnie King moved to close nominations for the position of Chair. Trustee Charlie Kleeman seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

For the committee's nomination of Brenda Simmons-Hutchins as Foundation Liaison, Trustee Ronnie King moved to close nominations for the position of Foundation Liaison. Trustee Gerald Reid seconded the motion, and the motion was passed.

Director's Report

Director Barbara Gubbin reminded the group of upcoming anniversaries. On August 26th, the Jacksonville Public Library will celebrate its 100th anniversary as a government documents depository, with Congresswoman Corrine Brown in attendance. Then, in October, the University Park and Pablo Creek Branch Libraries will celebrate their 10th anniversaries on October 4th and 9th respectively.

Eight-thousand children have participated in the library's Summer Reading program, reading 58,000 books, and the new e-classroom at the Bradham Brooks Branch Library has been more successful than expected.

The City Council has approved funds to continue work on water intrusion at the Willowbranch Branch Library. Renovations to the Beaches Branch Library have progressed well, and stucco work continues on the Main Library. Network bandwidth upgrades continue apace. Legislation has been submitted to allow trustees to determine which spaces in the Main Library comprise the Conference Center, an important step toward enabling the library to provide its former café space to the Friends of Hemming Park in exchange for their efforts to revitalize downtown and provide a social worker to the library and the park.

Director Gubbin reminded trustees that elected officials, including Congressman Ander Crenshaw and Congresswoman Corrine Brown, would be in town soon. Given the importance of federal support for E-Rate funding and the Library Services and Technology Act, Director Gubbin encouraged trustees to contact their elected officials.

The library has learned that its presentations to the City Council will occur quarterly instead of monthly. Former City Council President Bill Gulliford, a champion of these presentations, has been chosen by the Northeast Florida Library Information Network (NEFLIN) as its Champion of the Year.

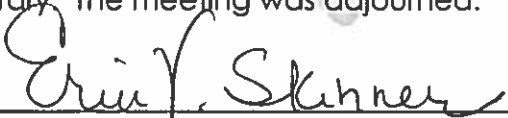
Reports from Ex-Officio Members, the Mayor's Office, and the Foundation

Tia Leathers, attending for Duval County Public Schools (DCPS), alerted the group to upcoming activities that DCPS hopes will foster healthy family dynamics and an ideal community environment for child learning, including the Parent Academy, the Million Father March, and the efforts of its Department of Athletics to help students not only to be active but also to eat well.

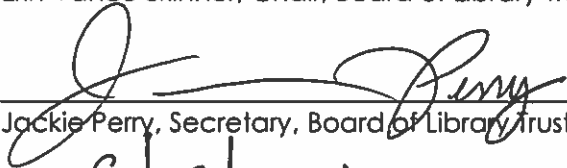
Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library

Gail Hunyar, President of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, Florence Rush-White, President of the Friends of Brentwood Branch Library, Helene Kamps-Stewart, President of the Friends of the Murray Hill Branch Library, and Roxanne Henkle, President of the Friends of the Willowbranch Library attended. Ms. Hunyar reminded all present to vote.

Adjournment: The next meeting will be September 18th at the University Park Branch Library. The meeting was adjourned.



Erin Vance Skinner, Chair, Board of Library Trustees



Jackie Perry, Secretary, Board of Library Trustees

9/18/2014

Date Approved by the Board of Library Trustees