

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees
September 10th, 2015
Main Library
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
Sybil Ansbacher, Trustee
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee
Mario Payne, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Jackie Perry, Secretary
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Ronnie King, Trustee
Joshua R. La Bouef, Trustee

Others Present:

Jennifer Giltrop, Deputy Director,
Public Services
Mark Merritt, Deputy Director,
Administration and Finance
Amber Holley, Manager, Youth Services
Eric Lawrence, Assistant Director,
Planning and Facilities
Kathy Lussier, Assistant Director,
Community Relations and
Marketing
Gretchen Mitchell, Assistant Director,
Support Services
Richard Mott, Manager for Strategic
Initiatives
Roberto Ortiz, Contract Administration
Coordinator
Mitesh Sangani, Conference Center
Manager
Andrew Herron, Executive Assistant to
the Director

Greg Anderson, Trustee Ex-officio,
Jacksonville City Council
Larry Roziers, Trustee Ex-officio, Duval
County Public Schools
Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Mayor's Liaison to
Boards and Commissions
John Sawyer, Assistant General
Counsel

Harry Reid, Friends of the Jacksonville
Public Library
Eileen Burnett, Friends of the
Willowbranch Library
Judy Klein, Friends of the Murray Hill
Library
Melvin Turnage, Friends of the
Brentwood Library

Call to Order

Chair Erin Vance Skinner called the meeting to order at 12:11PM. A quorum was present.

Honors and Recognition

Chair Skinner thanked Kathy Lussier, departing Assistant Director for Community Relations and Marketing, for her successful tenure and for having improved Jacksonville Public Library's (JPL's) presence in local news, on the internet, and in the community.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Sybil Ansbacher moved to approve the Board minutes of August 13th, 2015. Trustee Gerald Reid seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

Presentation

Deputy Director Jennifer Giltrop discussed plans for the Library's 10th Anniversary Celebration, currently scheduled to begin at 11AM on November 7th. [The Library Foundation will hold a fundraising event, the night before, on November 6th at 6:30PM.] In the plans is a commemorative presentation at 1PM with Library Director Barbara Gubbin, elected officials, and the Board of Library Trustees. Additionally, there will be best-selling author Lauren Groff, scavenger hunts, Stories for Young Children, family art, puppet making, a Battle of the Bands in Hemming Park, and performances by the NAS Jacksonville Color Guard and the Navy Band.

Chairman's Report

Chair Skinner discussed recent events of importance to the Board: The City Council Finance Committee made its FY 2016 budget recommendations for the library to the City Council on August 28th, including \$1M to add 88 hours of service to JPL libraries in FY 2016. The hearing for the city's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) occurred on August 26th. The six library-related projects that Mayor Curry recommended for funding include design work to upgrade the children's rooms at the Webb Wesconnett and Highlands Libraries and design work to create collaborative spaces at the Main Library and to renovate the interior of the Mandarin Library. The Board has been asked by the Finance Committee to consider using money from the Special Revenue fines fund to renovate the children's rooms at the Highlands and Webb Wesconnett Libraries after design work is completed. Funding is currently being sought through the Jacksonville Journey for Project LEAP, the library's proposal for community outreach and literacy in the Urban Core. The kickoff for Jax Reads, the Library's Community Reading program, occurred on Tuesday September 1st at the Main Library, with Mayor Curry, City Council Members, and trustees in attendance. Author Charles Martin recently spoke at the Mandarin Library. The Random House Book Buzz occurred at the Beaches Library. The West Regional Library celebrated its 10th Anniversary on August 29th, with Council Member Doyle Carter in attendance and Vice-Chair Guy Anderson representing the Board.

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee – Trustee Sybil Ansbacher moved to amend the slate of nominees for 2016 Board Offices to include Brenda Simmons-Hutchins as Foundation Liaison. Trustee Gerald Reid seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Finance Committee – Committee Vice-Chair Tim J. Anderson reported on the September 10th meeting of the Finance Committee and put forward the proposed Foundation Budget for 2016, listed under "New Business," below.

Governance Committee – Committee Vice-Chair Gerald Reid reported on the September 2nd meeting of the Governance Committee. The committee heard an Appeal of Trespass from Customer William Guilford, who was trespassed recently for one year due to multiple Code of Conduct violations. Trustee Reid informed the Board that the committee had decided to uphold the trespass order, barring any objections from the Board. None were forthcoming. Trustee Reid also put forward voting items, listed under “New Business,” below.

Foundation Liaison – Foundation Liaison Brenda Simmons-Hutchins reported on Recent events of relevance to the Library and the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Chair Skinner asked if any Trustees wished to amend the current slate of nominees for 2016 Board offices: Erin Skinner for Chair, Ronnie King for Vice-Chair, Tim Anderson for Secretary, and Brenda Simmons-Hutchins for Foundation Liaison. Hearing no suggestions, Trustee Ansbacher moved on behalf of the Nominating Committee to elect the slate of officers. By unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Trustee Reid moved on behalf of the Governance Committee to approve the Board Meeting Calendar for 2016. By unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Trustee Reid moved on behalf of the Governance Committee to approve the Holiday/Closing Schedule for 2016. By unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Trustee Tim Anderson moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve the Foundation Budget for 2016. By unanimous consent, the motion was approved.

Director’s Report

Deputy Director Jennifer Giltrop reported on recent events of relevance to the Library, including those in Barbara Gubbin’s Director’s Report for August 2015. Renovations to the Willowbranch Library continue apace with a projected November 2014 reopening. Restored hours of service at various branches, as noted in chair Skinner’s report, will begin on November 14th, 2015 if approved by the City Council. The implementation of Student and Educator Cards continues successfully, with library visits for large numbers of Duval County Public Schools students planned.

Trustee Comments and Reports on Five Core Areas of Responsibility

Trustees discussed their recent Board-related activities.

Strategic Discussion—Relationship between the Library Board and Library Foundation

Foundation Liaison Brenda Simmons-Hutchins reported on plans of the Library and of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation to bring the Director of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation (Janet Wesley) under the supervision of the Library Director (Barbara A. B. Gubbin) to achieve full alignment between fund-raising and program goals.

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

Council President Greg Anderson stated that he was glad to rejoin the Library Board by his own appointment as its Ex-officio trustee from the City Council, having served similarly before. Dr. Johnny Gaffney commended the Board for its recent success in advocating for restoration of hours of library service with the City Council and counseled that advocacy and relationship-building are year-round jobs. Larry Roziers of Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) discussed upcoming events of importance to DCPS.

Friends' Reports

Friends Groups reported on their recent activities, with Harry Reid of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, Eileen Burnett of the Friends of the Willowbranch Library, Judy Klein of the Friends of the Murray Hill Library, and Melvin Turnage of the Friends of the Brentwood Library in attendance.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40PM.

-Approved by the Board of Library Trustees 10/8/15