

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees
April 9, 2015
Webb Wesconnett Regional Library
6887 103rd Street

Board Members Present:

Erin Vance Skinner, Chair
Jackie Perry, Secretary
Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins,
Foundation Liaison
Tim J. Anderson, Trustee
Sybil Ansbacher, Trustee
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee
Joshua R. La Bouef, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee

Board Members Absent:

Guy Anderson, Trustee
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Ronnie King, Trustee

Others Present:

Barbara A. B. Gubbin
Director
Mark Merritt,
Deputy Director, Administration &
Finance
Marshelle Berry
Region Manager, Webb Region
Jane Harris
Region Manager, West Region
Amber Holley,
Manager, Youth Services
Lynn Jacobson,
Bibliographic Systems Manager
Sharon Kirkes,
Branch Manager, Webb
Wesconnett Regional Library
Eric Lawrence,
Assistant Director, Facilities &
Planning
Kathy Lussler,
Manager, Community Relations &
Marketing
Julie McNeil,
Assistant Director, Public Services
Gretchen Mitchell,
Assistant Director, Support Services
Richard Mott,
Manager, Strategic Initiatives
Lisa Peterson,
Technology Systems Administrator
Mitesh Sangani,
Conference Center Manager
Andrew Herron,
Exec. Assistant to the Director

Gail Hunyar,
Friends of the Jacksonville Public
Library
Florence Cunningham,
Friends of the Brentwood Library
Judy Klein,
Friends of the Murray Hill Library
Virginia Maxted,
Friends of the Beaches Library
Celia Miller,
Friends of the Dallas Graham Library

Honorees and Guests: Hope Bissell,
Mario Joseph Payne

Call to Order

Chair Erin Vance Skinner called the meeting to order at 12:10PM.

Introduction of Guests and Comments from Members of the Public

Chair Skinner introduced Mario Joseph Payne, the Mayor's nominee to fill the Board's vacant chair representing At Large Group 1.

Honors & Recognition

Librarian Hope Bissell was presented a bouquet to honor the 34 years of service she rendered to Jacksonville Public Library before her recent retirement.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Jackie Perry moved to approve the Board minutes of March 11th, 2015. Trustee Joshua La Bouef seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

Presentation—The Webb Wesconnett Regional Library

Sharon Kirkes, Branch Manager of the Webb Wesconnett Regional Library, discussed popular and important services of the regional library, with an emphasis on language and computer classes offered in its E-classroom.

Chairman's Report

Chair Skinner reported on recent events of relevance to the library. Legislation to allow the library to keep money from fines in a special Board trust fund for capital improvements passed the City Council on March 25th. The Argyle Library celebrated its 10th anniversary on Saturday, with Council Members Love and Crescimbeni in attendance. Director Gubbin, Trustee Jackie Perry, Region Manager Marshelle Berry, and Daniel Kibler of the Friends of the Murray Hill Library joined Chair Skinner to travel to Tallahassee on March 18th for the Florida Library Association's Library Day and discuss State Aid for Libraries with elected state officials. The first election for Mayor, Sheriff and City Council seats was held on March 24th, and Chair Skinner encouraged all present to reach out to their candidates and City Council Members on behalf of

the library. City Council Candidates Debates are scheduled at four library locations on April 20th at 6:30PM. The One Spark crowdfunding festival will continue at the Main Library until April 12th. Trustee Tim Anderson appeared in the Jacksonville Business Journal's yearly "40 under 40" list.

Committee Reports

Trustee Tim Anderson, acting on behalf of Finance Committee Chair Guy Anderson, reported the latest meeting of the BOLT Finance Committee. Deputy Director Mark Merritt reviewed details of the library's proposed FY 2016 budget, including "Rebuilding JPL," the budget request reflecting longtime priorities of the Board to "rebuild" the library's hours of service and collection. Details include: a) rebuilding full service hours at the four regional libraries after a 22% cut in FY 2013, b) rebuilding library collections funds after a 45% erosion since 2005, c) rebuilding part-time and overtime funds after budget cuts sustained in FY 2015, and d) moving select Conference Center costs to the General Fund to put the Main Library Conference Center on a financially sustainable basis. This budget request totals \$1.9 million.

Assistant Director Eric Lawrence reviewed the library's proposed submission for the city's FY 2016-2010 CIP (Capital Improvement Plan). He discussed a proposed collaboration between the Northwest CDC, Executive Director Paul Tutwiler, and the Library to build a replacement for the undersized Dallas Graham Library in a nearby senior citizen residential development. Trustee Charlie Kleeman inquired about the cost of operating the new facility, to which Assistant Director Lawrence replied that the proposed space would cost more to operate than the current building but would realize significant economy of scale and improved energy costs. Trustee Sybil Ansbacher inquired if the Board has the authority to close a library (a necessary step toward replacing the current one), to which Director Gubbin replied that only the Mayor and City Council can close libraries, but the Board has the authority to approve in concept. Trustee Gerald Reid advised Library Administration to regard any lessons to be learned from similar projects in other cities, but he joined Trustee Brenda Simmons-Hutchins in welcoming the idea.

Foundation Liaison Simmons-Hutchins, as Chair of the ad hoc Committee on the Candidate Debates, reported that questions for upcoming City Council Debates in libraries have been formulated and chosen by the League of Women Voters. She thanked Vice Chair Guy Anderson, Trustee Ronnie King, and staff members Kathy Lussler and Richard Mott for their work in bringing about these debates.

Trustee Sybil Ansbacher updated the group on the latest meeting of the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation Board, where she learned that the Foundation has new priorities in the wake of Interim Director of Development Janet Wesley's arrival. The Foundation will likely put an increased emphasis on gifts to the Foundation and less emphasis on involving itself in programming for the library.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

Trustee Tim J Anderson moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve the library's proposed FY 2016 Budget. The Board approved the motion.

Trustee Anderson moved on behalf of the Finance Committee to approve the library's submission for the 2016-2020 CIP. The Board approved the motion.

Director's Report

Director Barbara Gubbin delivered her Director's Report for March 2015. The Library's new Deputy Director for Public Services, Jennifer Giltrop, has been hired and will begin work on April 27th. Continued challenges presented by renovations at the Willowbranch Library will push its reopening back to at least August. On April 22nd at 5:30PM, the Main Library will host author and political scientist Matthew Corrigan for a discussion of his new book, *Conservative Hurricane: How Jeb Bush Remade Florida*. Director Gubbin thanked Trustee Ansbacher for her involvement in the recent award from Beaches Watch recognizing the dedicated work of the staff and Friends of the Beaches Library.

Trustee Comments and Reports on their Five Core Areas of Responsibility

Chair Skinner invited Foundation Liaison Brenda Simmons-Hutchins to share her progress on her personal work plan, a self-created document completed by each trustee to focus their energies for the year. Trustee Simmons-Hutchins reported that, in recent weeks, she has learned much about government in the sunshine and Board ethics requirements as a result of her work in bringing about the upcoming Candidates Debates.

Friends' Reports

Gail Hunyar of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library, Florence Cunningham of the Friends of the Brentwood Library, Judy Klein of the Friends of the Murray Hill Library, Virginia Maxted of the Friends of the Beaches Library, and Celia Miller of the Friends of the Dallas Graham Library shared the recent activities and concerns of their groups.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15PM.

Erin V. Skinner

5/14/15

J. Perry

5/14/15