

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees Meeting
March 10th, 2016
Main Library
303 North Laura Street

Present:

Erin Vance Skinner, Chair
Ronnie King, Vice-Chair
Tim Anderson, Secretary
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Dr. Bill Mason, Trustee
Mario Payne, Trustee
Jackie Perry, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee

Absent:

Guy K. Anderson, Trustee
Sybil Ansbacher, Trustee
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee
Dr. Brenda Simmons-Hutchins,
Foundation Liaison

Staff:

Barbara A. B. Gubbin, Library Director
Mark Merritt, Deputy Director,
Administration & Finance
Gretchen Mitchell, Assistant Director,
Support Services
Heath Keller, Assistant Director,
Facilities Management and
Planning
Richard Mott, Manager, Strategic
Initiatives
Eric Soriano, E-Services Librarian III
Mitesh Sangani, Manager,
Conference Center
Michael Sullivan, Region Manager,
Main Region
Andrew Herron, Executive Assistant to
the Director

Others Present:

Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Liaison to
Boards and Commissions, Mayor's
Office
John Sawyer, Assistant General
Counsel, City of Jacksonville
Jamie Self, Director of
Development, Jacksonville Public
Library Foundation

Friends:

Margaret Smith, Friends of the
Jacksonville Public Library
Sharon Coon, Friends of the
Brentwood Library
Celia Miller, Friends of the Dallas
Graham Library
Roxanne Henkle, Friends of the
Willowbranch Library
Judy Klein, Friends of the Murray Hill
Library
Melvin Turnage, Friends of the
Brentwood Library

Honorees mentioned under "Honors
& Recognition" below.

1. Call to Order

Chair Erin Vance Skinner called the meeting to order at 12:10PM. A quorum was present.

2. Introductions, Guests, and Comments from Members of the Public

Chair Skinner welcomed Dr. Bill Mason, Jacksonville Public Library's newest trustee. She also invited Sharon Coon of the Friends of the Brentwood Library to share concerns about plans for the Brentwood Library. Ms. Coon suggested that the library give higher priority to its proposed replacement of the current Brentwood Library, a feature of the five-year Capital Improvement Plan that the library proposed recently to the City's Internal CIP committee. She also requested that the library devote more of its own money to the project, as Capital Improvement Projects are financed by a combination of department money and other funds. Finance Committee Chair King's response to Ms. Coon is included under his "Finance Committee" report, below.

3. Honors & Recognition

Chair Skinner presented the Jacksonville Public Library (JPL) Employee of the Quarter Award to Youth Services Librarian Laura Minor for her successful planning and execution of the 10th Anniversary Teen Battle of the Bands on November 7th, 2015. She also honored: Olga Bayer of Community Relations and Marketing for successfully managing the department during a leadership transition, Librarians Tamera Branam and Kathleen Krizek of the Main Library for organizing the JPL holiday party, Library Associates Marsha Collins and Marie Myers of the Main Library for creating and implementing the 10th Anniversary photo contest, Library Associate Emily Gideon of the San Marco Library for the "Holiday Storytime Pajama Party" with Ms. Molly Curry, and Librarians Jill Haile and Diane Pless and Library Associate Linda Smith of Support Services for their work to organize the Willowbranch Library's collection for its reopening.

4. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Marc Hardesty moved to approve the Board Minutes for February 4th and February 11th, 2016. Vice-Chair Ronnie King seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved.

5. Chair's Report

Chair Skinner reported near-term events of relevance to the Board: The library has learned that there will be no increase in the State Aid to Libraries budget this year. Jacksonville Public Library's proposed Capital Improvement Plan projects were presented to the City's Internal CIP Committee on February 26th. The Jacksonville Public Library Foundation's evening reception on February 25th was strongly attended, with Mayor Lenny Curry, Molly Curry, Chair Skinner, Trustees Guy Anderson, Sybil Ansbacher, Gerald Reid in attendance. Council President Greg Anderson, Council Members John Crescimbeni, Jim Love, and Sam Newby, and Trustee Jackie Perry attended the Friends of the Murray Hill Library's recent annual meeting. Chair Skinner requested that trustees attend upcoming Citizen's Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) meetings to discuss the library's proposed Capital Improvement Plan projects. She also invited trustees to attend an upcoming Town Hall with Council Member Aaron Bowman at the Pablo Creek Library, a Storytime with Representative Jay

Fant at the Willowbranch Library, a Town Hall with Council Member Joyce Morgan at the University Park Library, and an AARP 50+ Celebration at the Main Library. The Board leadership will work towards a joint meeting of the Library Board and Foundation at the time of the May Board Meeting.

6. Committee Reports

- a) Finance Committee – Finance Committee Chair Ronnie King reported figures discussed at the latest meeting of the Finance Committee. He also responded to concerns expressed by Sharon Coon of the Friends of the Brentwood Library, reported under “Introductions,” above. He assured Ms. Coon that the presence of the Brentwood Library replacement project in the Library’s Capital Improvement Plan proposal is evidence that the Board accords high priority to it. However, library replacements are too expensive to be financed substantially by library funds, and thus those funds are better spent on more accomplishable goals until proper financing is secured for the library replacement.
- b) Foundation – Dr. Jamie Self, Director of Development for the Jacksonville Public Library Foundation, reported recent and upcoming events of interest concerning the Foundation. The Foundation’s Hi \$5 fund raising campaign is underway, with a goal of raising \$50,000 in donations of \$5 per person to fund the Summer Learning program.

7. Strategic Discussion – JPL’s E-Class Objectives

Richard Mott, JPL’s Manager for Strategic Initiatives, and Eric Soriano, E-Services Librarian III in charge of technology training for customers, explained the objectives of such training. Vice-Chair King expressed support for the training and began a discussion of how the library might best publicize e-classes and related services. Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Mayor’s Liaison to Boards and Commissions, suggested sending information to neighborhood associations and Council ECA’s. He also shared that the Neighborhoods department has homeowner’s associations on its email list.

8. Director’s Report

Director Barbara Gubbin shared highlights of her Director’s Report to the Board for February 2016. She reported that the library will soon offer online homework help and tutoring through BrainFuse®. The library has created the only public death record index available covering Florida Times Union obituaries for a certain period in the 1950s and ‘60s. Career Online High School still could be funded at the state level for the coming year[s], so she encouraged those present to advocate to state officials. 24,000 students from Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) have now completed visits to the library, per the partnership with DCPS. A status quo budget has been requested by the mayor’s administration of the library for the coming year. Director Gubbin suggested that funding for proper updating of the collection is fast becoming a more urgent need than funding for expanded hours of weekly service.

9. Trustee Comments and Reports on Five Core Areas of Responsibility

Trustees discussed recent progress made on their Work Plans. Chair Skinner shared a report sent by Foundation Liaison Brenda Simmons-Hutchins. While in Washington, D.C., Trustee Simmons-Hutchins spoke with the offices of Senator Bill Nelson and Congressman Ander Crenshaw about signing a "Dear Appropriator" letter asking for significant LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) grants, ultimately securing a commitment to sign from Congresswoman Corrine Brown. Separately, she has kept in communication with Senator Audrey Gibson and Representative Mia Jones. She has met with Paul Tutwiler, CEO of the Northwest Jacksonville Community Development Center, who is partnering with the library to promote a replacement for the Dallas Graham Library, and with the Friends of the Brentwood Library regarding their thoughts about plans to replace the Brentwood Library.

10. Mayor's Office Report

Dr. Johnny Gaffney reported that he is still courting a potential donor on the library's behalf. The Library and the Foundation will be in touch.

11. Friends' Reports

Margaret Smith reported that the recent Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library booksale was their most successful since 2013, thanks partly to library assistance in promoting it (distributing bookmarks, etc...). Roxanne Henkle of the Friends of the Willowbranch Library discussed the "Literary Affair to Remember" event and community garden projects at the Willowbranch Library. Judy Klein of the Friends of the Murray Hill Library thanked those present for high turnout at the group's annual meeting. Melvin Turnage and Virginia Maxted represented the Friends of the Brentwood and Beaches Libraries respectively.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly after 2PM.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES APRIL 14TH, 2016