

Minutes
Board of Library Trustees Meeting
March 14th, 2017
Main Library
303 North Laura Street

Present:

Ronnie King, Chair
Tim J. Anderson, Vice-Chair
Sybil Ansbacher, Foundation Liaison
Guy K. Anderson, Trustee
Jill Dame, Trustee
Marc Hardesty, Trustee
Dr. Brenda R. Simmons-Hutchins,
Trustee

Absent:

Mario Payne, Secretary
Charlie Kleeman, Trustee
Dr. Bill Mason, Trustee
Jackie Perry, Trustee
Gerald Reid, Trustee

Staff:

Barbara A. B. Gubbin, Library Director
Jennifer Giltrop, Deputy Director,
Public Services
Mark Merritt, Deputy Director,
Administration & Finance
Gretchen Mitchell, Assistant Director,
Support Services
Julie McNeil, Assistant Director for
Public Services
Marshelle Berry, Region Manager,
Highlands Region
Keli Likins, Region Manager,
Southeast Region
Andrew Herron, Executive Assistant to
the Director

Others Present:

Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Mayor's Liaison
to Boards and Commissions
Haleigh Hutchison, Executive
Council Assistant to Tommy
Hazouri
Brandon Mack, Supervisor,
Partnerships and Community
Engagement, Duval County Public
Schools
Jim McCain, Assistant General
Counsel
Dr. Jamie Self, Director, Jacksonville
Public Library Foundation
Dick Waters, Godfrey's Associates

Friends:

Margaret Smith, Friends of the
Jacksonville Public Library
Ramonda Fields, 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

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Chair Ronnie King called the meeting to order at 12:10PM. A quorum was present at such point as action items were discussed.

2. Approval of Minutes

Trustee Guy Anderson moved to approve the Library Board Minutes of February 9th, 2017.

Trustee Marc Hardesty seconded the motion. Approved.

3. Chair's Report

Chair King discussed recent and upcoming events of relevance to the Board: Advocates from Jacksonville Public Library visited state officials in Tallahassee on March 9th, FLA Library Day, to discuss State Aid and other matters of importance to Florida's Libraries. Chair King thanked the members of the delegation, of which he was a member: Director Barbara Gubbin, Deputy Director Jennifer Giltrop, Trustees Sybil Ansbacher and Brenda Simmons-Hutchins, and former Neptune Beach mayor Harriet Pruette. Film Director Mira Nair, who directed the film adaptation of *The Namesake*, JPL's Big Read for 2017, joined the Foundation and Library for recent events. Riverside Avondale Preservation has named the 2015-2016 Willowbranch Library renovation as "Outstanding Site Improvement" of the year.

4. Director's Report

Director Barbara Gubbin summarized highlights of her Director's Report, which was provided in written form. Director Gubbin has learned that the library will not be allowed to alter its Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) beyond adding new projects to 2022. In February, the Board approved altering the CIP to fit changing conditions in the Urban Core, where the recent exit of a business partner from the library's planned replacement of the Dallas Graham Library has made that project not feasible in the short term. The library and Board had hoped to shift funds to projects which are feasible, including the replacement of the Brentwood Library and the building of a new library in Oceanway. (See February 9th, 2017 minutes.) The Capital Improvement Plan funded improvements to the children's rooms in the Highlands and Webb Libraries. Negotiations continue with VRL Architects for work on those projects.

5. Committee Reports

Governance Committee – Trustee Brenda Simmons-Hutchins reported on the most recent meeting of the committee, in which an action item was discussed. (See "New Business," below.)

Finance Committee – Board and Committee Vice-Chair Tim Anderson reported on the most recent meeting of the committee, in which financial reports were reviewed. He shared the perspective that low salaries are taking a toll on recruitment and retention.

ad Hoc Committee on Capital Improvements Co-Chair Guy Anderson reported his intention to reconvene the committee *after* the library has gathered further community input for its Strategic Plan. He noted that Trustee Marc Hardesty recently presented the library's case for a new

Oceanway Library to the North Jacksonville Civic Association, which was enthusiastic about the proposal.

Foundation Liaison Sybil Ansbacher called upon Director of Development Jamie Self to report on recent events of relevance to the **Jacksonville Public Library Foundation**. A Foundation backed credit card for the library is forthcoming.

6. Strategic Discussion: Updates to JPL Strategic Plan

Dick Waters of Godfrey's Associates reported on Town Halls being held to gather community and stakeholder input for the development of JPL's new Strategic Plan.

7. Old Business – None

8. Update: FY 2018 Budget

Deputy Director Mark Merritt, Administration and Finance, gave trustees an update on the development of the library's FY 2018 budget, in which marketing expenses are incorporated into programming expenses. The proposed budget includes funds to restore hours of weekly service at various locations and at the Main Library. Trustee Jill Dame recommended that the library prioritize: 1) restoring 8 hours of weekly service to 9 branches that currently lack six-day-a-week service, 2) funds for furniture fixtures and equipment, including repair and maintenance, and 3) funds to rebuild collections. This suggestion met a general consensus from trustees.

9. New Business – Resolution Commending Jacksonville Public Library's Volunteers

Trustee Brenda Simmons-Hutchins moved on behalf of the Governance Committee to approve a Resolution Commending Jacksonville Public Library's Volunteers.

Approved. Unanimous consent.

10. Trustee Comments

Trustees shared details of their recent Board related activities.

11. Mayor's Office and Ex-Officio Reports

Dr. Johnny Gaffney, Mayor's Liaison to Boards and Commissions, encouraged the board to continue proactive advocacy to City officials, and Brandon Mack of Duval County Public Schools (speaking on behalf of Larry Roziers) discussed upcoming Discover Duval school tours.

12. Friends' Reports

Friends groups shared their recent and upcoming activities. Margaret Smith of the Friends of the Jacksonville Public Library reported that information will be forthcoming about the group's next book sale. Roxanne Henkle of the Friends of the Willowbranch Library reported on work on the neighborhood's community garden.

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned shortly before 2PM.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES 04/13/17.