



Charlotte Mecklenburg Library

Library Board of Trustees
Main Library, Francis Auditorium
Thursday, March 18, 2010

11:30 a.m.

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Robin Branstrom, Chair
Bob Sink, Vice Chair
Molly Griffin
Magdalena Maiz-Peña
Renee Casali
Sally Robinson
Joan Martin
Darrel Williams

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Charles Bowman
Belva Greenage

STAFF PRESENT

Charles Brown, Director of Libraries
Karen Beach
Brian Beavers
Frank Blair
David Singleton
Linda Vitlar
Cordelia Anderson
Sarah Poole
Angela Haigler
Chuck Mallas
Rick Ricker
Jenifer Daniels

OTHERS PRESENT

*Mark Kutny, Hamilton, Moon,
Stephens, Steele & Martin
PLLCJ*
*Harry Jones, Mecklenburg
County Manager*
*Hyong Yi, Budget Director
Mecklenburg County*
*Michael Bryant, Mecklenburg
County*
Members of the Press

MINUTES

Chair Robin Branstrom called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Mrs. Branstrom introduced County Manager Harry Jones who shared with the Board the revenue reductions for Mecklenburg County which resulted in reductions of county support to the Library for the last quarter of the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 and most likely for Fiscal Year 2010-2011.

Chair Branstrom commented that the Library Board understands the difficult decision that faces the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners. Mrs. Branstrom also stated that the Library Board of Trustees assumes responsibility for policy decisions for the Library. Vice Chair Bob Sink then communicated what the reduction of county support means to the Library for the final quarter of Fiscal Year 2010 and the long term strategy.

Harry Jones excused himself from the meeting 12:03 p.m.

Chair Branstrom directed the Board to agenda item FY 2010/2011 Budget Reductions. Mrs. Branstrom shared with the Board the "new normal" in this climate of budget reduction.

Director Brown addressed the Board in which he reviewed where the Library identified budget reductions in the past 15 months. He also praised the staff as the prime ingredient to the success of the Library. Mr. Brown indicated that most of the items in past budget reductions were not noticeable to the public. Director Brown then stated that the current request from county for budget reductions would mean the following; reduction in staff and the closing of half of the Library's 24 locations.

The Board asked to be informed about the Library's Reduction in Staff policy and an indication of how branches would be affected. Director of Library Experiences David Singleton, Director of Research, Innovation and Research Frank Blair and Deputy Director of Human Resources Rick Ricker elaborated on Human Resources support for staff and the criteria and process for consideration of Library location closings.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees for approval to waive the Public Appearance Policy. On a motion by Darrel Williams, seconded by Sally Robinson, the Trustees unanimously approved to waive the Public Appearance Policy.

Ms. Branstrom then introduced Dr. Susan Harden, Mr. William Brawley and President of the Friends of the Library Harriet Smith each of who offered support and encouragement to the Library.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees to approve the recommendations of Library Administration for budget reductions for Fiscal Year 2010. On a motion by Darrel Williams, and seconded by Bob Sink the Trustees unanimously approved the budget reductions recommended by Administration with the provision the Board will address alternatives if they occur.

Director of Organizational Resources Brian Beavers presented the reduction scenarios for Fiscal Year 2011.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees for approval of the minutes of the February 18, 2010 Library Board of Trustees regular and retreat meetings. On a motion by Darrel Williams, seconded by Molly Griffin, the Trustees unanimously approved the minutes of the both regular and retreat meetings.

Mr. Beavers delivered the detail and summary financial report for year-to-date through February 2010.

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The Trustees discussed fundraising strategies and planning for budget reductions going forward. In addition the Board expressed their commitment to create a sustainable and viable Library system for the community. Director Brown extended to the Board full support from the Library staff.

Sally Robinson excused herself from the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Brown
Secretary to the Board