



Library Board of Trustees

Main Library, Francis Auditorium
Thursday, May 20, 2010

Noon

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Robin Branstrom, Chair
Bob Sink, Vice Chair
Charles Bowman, Treasurer
Molly Griffin
Magdalena Maiz-Peña
Renee Casali
Sally Robinson
Joan Martin
Darrel Williams
Belva Greenage
Tami Simmons

STAFF PRESENT

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

OTHERS PRESENT

*Bob Stephens, Hamilton,
Moon, Stephens, Steele &
Martin PLLCJ*
*John McGillicuddy,
Mecklenburg County General
Manager*
*Harriet Smith, President of the
Friends of the Library*
*Hazen Blodgett, Matthews
Town Manager*
Members of the Press

MINUTES

Chair Robin Branstrom called the meeting to order at noon and welcomed audience members.

Mrs. Branstrom expressed her appreciation to the Trustees for their time and dedication during this difficult period. Chair Branstrom then acknowledged the County Commissioners, General Manager John McGillicuddy, the Mayors and Town Managers in the outlining Municipalities, and Mayor Anthony Foxx who agreed to learn more about the Library's sustainability plan.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees for approval of the minutes of both the April 15 and May 5, 2010 regular and special Library Board of Trustees meetings. On a motion by Darrel Williams, seconded by Sally Robinson, the Trustees unanimously approved the minutes of both meetings.

Mrs. Branstrom acknowledged Director Charles Brown who shared the latest information regarding the County Manager's final FY 2010-2011 budget recommendation for the Library. Director Brown explained that the \$2.5 M liability that has been removed from the Library's budget reflects the consolidation of the Maintenance and Security departments with Mecklenburg County Government,

which is a key component of the sustainability plan. In addition, Mr. Brown informed the Board that the RIF (reduction in workforce) figure reported by the Library represents the actual number of people rather than FTE (full-time equivalent.) Mr. Brown added that the Library uses many part-time staff, some of whom have been with the Library for many years.

Chair Branstrom reminded the Board of the many activities that have taken place over the past month focusing on the Library's projected reduction in funding. Mrs. Branstrom encouraged the Board's participation on June 3rd at 5:00 p.m at the budget workshop with the County Commissioners. Mrs. Branstrom also reminded the Board of the following upcoming important dates; June 15th the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners will vote on the final FY 2010-2011 budget and the next Library Board of Trustees' Meeting on June 24th.

Trustee Sally Robinson commented on the remarkable efforts made by Chair Robin Branstrom, Vice Chair Bob Sink, Director Charles Brown and so many other Board members. Mrs. Robinson hoped that the county recognized that the Library has worked positively through this challenge. General Manager John McGillicuddy agreed there has been open communication between himself and the Library. Mr. Brown also mentioned the five community meetings held throughout the county and the participation of County Budget Director Hyong Yi. Director Brown also noted other town meetings and Trustee Joan Martin's participation.

Mrs. Branstrom acknowledged Sean Hogue, who shared with the Board the Library's Sustainability Plan. (Copy attached.) Mr. Hogue highlighted the Library's responsibility of unemployment benefit payments for staff who are laid off. Vice Chair Sink explained that as the Library reduces the staff, there are consequent liabilities. Trustee Williams then asked Mr. McGillicuddy if the Park and Recreation Department faced similar unemployment liabilities, he responded that the county would absorb that cost. The Board further discussed the cost of closing libraries and the importance of funding the \$ 8 million short-fall to sustain the Library's presence in the community.

Vice Chair Bob Sink presented the Library's Business Case (Copy Attached.) It states that the Library is an educational institution that makes knowledge and information freely available to the community. In addition, Mr. Sink described how the Library achieves that objective by providing materials, professional staff and programming. Vice Chair added that the Business Case highlights the points that support and provide a bridge to the sustainability plan. Chair Branstrom then noted the Business Case can be utilized in discussions with the community as support for a stable funding base.

Chair Branstrom recognized Matthews Town Manager Hazen Blodgett who was in attendance as well as two representatives from Mint Hill and other outlining municipalities and thanked them for their commitment to the Library.

Director Brown described how the Library's Security and Maintenance Departments will consolidate with Mecklenburg County. The proposed date for blending the departments is scheduled for June 30 or July 1st depending on the payroll cycle. Some time after an evaluation period, Mecklenburg County will weigh performance of current security staff, which may lead to the following: all or some of the Library staff will remain or the county may move towards privatization and contract with an outside service company. The Real Estate Services department has contracted with Linc Facilities Services to provide maintenance service for the Library. Linc Facilities Services has indicated a willingness to interview all of the Library's maintenance staff, which could lead to employment for some current staff members.

Director Charles Brown then went on to address the closures of the Belmont Center, Carmel and CheckIt Outlet library locations by June 19, 2010. Mr. Brown stated that the cost savings in closing these locations is a component of the sustainability plan. Director Brown explained other criteria used are distance from Carmel Branch Library to South County Regional Library (2.7 miles) and the expiration of the lease in June. Mr. Brown also stated that Belmont Center Branch Library is located 1.5 miles from Plaza Midwood; and CheckIt Outlet is within walking distance from Main Library. Trustee Tami Simmons asked about the materials, furniture and computers that are currently housed at these locations. Director of Library Experiences David Singleton informed the Board that the Library system will absorb the collections, equipment and furniture. Trustee Darrel Williams voiced his concern about the closing of library locations in the most fragile neighborhoods if the sustainability plan is not achieved. Vice Chair Bob Sink replied that we are hopeful the Board would not have to make that decision.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees for approval to authorize the closing of the following Library locations; Carmel, Belmont Center and CheckIt Outlet on or before June 19, 2010. On a motion by Molly Griffin, seconded by Joan Martin, the Trustees unanimously approved the closing of Carmel, Belmont Center and CheckIt Outlet branch locations on or before June 19, 2010.

Mrs. Branstrom spoke about the proposed temporary closing of the Beatties Ford Road Branch Library in early June in order to expedite the completion of the current expansion/renovation. Chair Branstrom then shared with the Board the proposal to close the Freedom Regional Library and transfer services once Beatties Ford Road Library reopens in early 2011. The Library has been in discussion with Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools with regard to taking charge of library operations at Philip O. Berry Technical High School. Director of Library Experiences David Singleton added that the location would transition in to a school library.

Chair Robin Branstrom asked the Board of Trustees for authorization for the temporary closing of the Beatties Ford Branch Library on or before July 3rd in order to expedite the completion of the current expansion/renovation project and its reopening in early 2011 as a regional library location, replacing the Freedom Regional Library which will close at that time. On a motion by Darrel Williams, seconded by Molly Griffin, the Trustees unanimously authorized the temporary closing of the Beatties Ford Branch Library on or before July 3rd in order to expedite the completion of the current expansion/renovation project and its reopening in early 2011 as a regional library location replacing the Freedom Regional Library which will close at that time.

Chair Branstrom extended a special welcome to newly appointed Trustee Tami Simmons. Mrs. Branstrom acknowledged that Mrs. Simmons' expertise and wide-range of knowledge is an asset to the Board.

The Trustees discussed the ranking criteria core add-backs document (Copy Attached) Chair Branstrom pointed out that this criteria is one piece of the data the Board will review should library locations need to be closed. Mr. Sean Hogue explained the weight/criteria ranking schedule.

Mrs. Branstrom distributed contact information for the Board of County Commissioners, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, Charlotte City Council, Town Managers & Mayors of the Municipalities and asked the members of the Board to initiate correspondence on behalf of the Library before the June 3rd Budget Workshop.

Director of Organizational Resources Brian Beavers presented the financial report for the FY 2009-2010 end of month April 2010. (Copy Attached) There were no outstanding items to report and no budget adjustments for this time period.

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles M. Brown
Secretary to the Board