

TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
JAN PLATT REGIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARY
MAY 24, 2007

Board Members Present: Chair, Jim Johnson, James Martin, Bob Argus, Kay O'Rourke, Laura Vickers, William Scheuerle, James Harkins, Patrick DeMarco, Alma Hires, Dora Reeder, and Margaret Fisher.

Staff Present: Joe Stines, Director of Library Services; Linda Gillon, Manager, Programming; David Wullschleger, Manager, Operations; Jackie Zebos, Manager, Administrative Services and Reference; Suzy George, Manager, Capital Projects; Lisa Wagner, Coordinator, Administrative Services and Grants; Andrew Breidenbaugh, Chief Librarian; Barbara Marquette, Administrative Specialist; and Ricardo Cox, Assistant County Attorney.

Mr. Johnson called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of the Library Board Minutes of April 26, 2007. Mr. Martin moved that the minutes be approved with corrections. Ms. Vickers seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Comments from the Public: Fred Hearn, Ada T. Payne Friends of the Library, asked the Library Board to keep in mind the Robert W. Saunders neighborhood and the needs that the current library and new library will provide.

Mr. Argus asked Ms. Staton to report on the Jazz in the Stacks event. Ms. Staton stated that it was a wonderful event and that Belinda Womack will be back next year.

Former Commissioner Jan Platt on behalf of the Development Committee of the Friends of the Library presented to the Mosaic Corporation a framed print of the calendar page they sponsored for the Friends of the Library. Ms. Platt suggested that the Library Board write to former Governor Martinez regarding exempting the Library Taxing District from future revenue cuts.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: Chair, Bill Scheuerle stated the Committee discussed an exercise signifying a \$2.5 million budget cut based on the proposed Legislative proposal. The following guiding principles were used: 1. No additional fines or fees. 2. Keep all full time positions. 3. Quantify impact of reduction both positive and negative. 4. Consider equitable cuts.

Dr. Scheuerle stated there are approximately 500 employees in the Library system. 200 of which are part-time employees, if the proposed reductions were implemented approximately 92 part-time Page positions could be eliminated. Other proposed reductions include cell phones, phone lines, travel, training, etc. There was a long discussion relating to the cutting of \$600 thousand in the materials budget. The Committee did not vote on any of the proposals, as this was merely an exercise. Once the Legislature has made a decision and once County Administrator, Pat Bean has released her budget cut plan, the Committee will follow the four "Guiding Principles" when recommending budget cuts. Not knowing when the County Administrator will be presenting her budget, a tentative Budget Committee meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 26 at 2:00

p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library. A scheduled Budget Committee meeting will be held on Monday, July 9 at 2:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library.

Mr. Stines stated that there is one update since the Committee met, the County Administrator, Pat Bean has implemented a hiring freeze on all vacant positions. Ms. Bean has also frozen all building programs the only ones that will proceed are those with signed contracts. Legislative Delegation Chairman, Arthenia Joyner, has scheduled a meeting on June 5th at the University Complex on 22nd Street at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Stines encouraged everyone to attend and express their feelings for public library services and the effects of the budget cuts on Hillsborough County services.

Ms. Vickers asked whether anyone had already contacted former Mayor Martinez as Ms. Platt had suggested. Mr. Stines responded that no one had. **Ms. Vickers made the motion to have a letter sent to Mr. Martinez regarding the Library Taxing District. Mr. Argus seconded. The motion was amended to include Governor Martinez, Jan Platt and the Legislative Delegation. Mr. Argus seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Planning Committee: Vice-Chair, Bob Argus stated that the next Committee meeting will be June 26th at 3:30 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library. **The Committee recommended that the Library Board approve the temporary hours for the Town 'n Country Regional Public Library and review the hours in ninety days.** Mr. Stines stated that the temporary site is approximately five miles from the current site and that it will take some time for the community to start using the temporary location. Staff will track the usage and will make changes to the hours as necessary. **Mr. DeMarco seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

The Committee recommended the reduction of hours of at the Ruskin Public Library from 62.5 to 44 hours per week. Mr. Stines stated that this change had nothing to do with budget cuts. Circulation is down at Ruskin by 38.3% which is by far the largest ever seen. The SouthShore Regional Public Library is drawing citizens from all over South County. **Mr. Harkins seconded. The motion passed unanimously.**

Policy and Bylaws Committee: Chair, Laura Vickers stated the Committee is reviewing a policy on wireless internet access and has asked for revisions to be brought to their next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for June 28th at 3:00 p.m. at the SouthShore Regional Public Library.

Unfinished Business None

New Business – Nominating Committee

Mr. Johnson appointed Kay O'Rourke, William Scheuerle, and Margaret Fisher. They will present a slate of officers to the Library Board at the June 28th Library Board meeting.

Mr. Stines stated that the BOCC will be announcing Library Board appointments at their June 6 meeting.

Director's Report

Mr. Stines stated that Library Services will be meeting with the lead auditor of the Clerk's Office on June 8th. This will be the formal exit meeting at which time the auditor will distribute his document of findings. Library Services will have twenty days to respond. There were no alarming findings but some new and revised policies will be required.

Mr. Stines stated the Imagination Library has enrolled over five hundred children. Public Relations Coordinator, Braulio Colon is actively seeking corporate sponsorship in an effort to take the program county-wide.

Library Services will be participating in an internet safety program during the summer for children and teens that use library computers. There will be a kick-off at the BOCC meeting on June 6 at 11:30 a.m. The course is broken down into three age groups and will benefit parents as well. All participants will receive ear buds and other incentives once they complete the training. Since the library is offering internet access, it seems appropriate to encourage internet safety for youth.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Meeting Dates:

Budget – (Tentative) Tuesday, June 26, 2007 - 2:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library

Planning –Tuesday, June 26, 2007 – 3:30 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library

Policy & Bylaws - Thursday, June 28, 2007 – 3:00 p.m. at the SouthShore Regional Public Library

Library Board – Thursday, June 28, 2007 - 4:00 p.m. at the SouthShore Regional Public Library