

TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
JOHN F. GERMANY PUBLIC LIBRARY
AUGUST 28, 2008

Board Members Present: Bob Argus, William Scheuerle, Christopher Rosbough, Patrick DeMarco, Jim Johnson, Margaret Fisher, Alma Hires, Kay O'Rourke, James Martin and Catherine Cottle. Laura Vickers and James Harkins were excused.

Staff Present: Joe Stines, Director; David Wullschleger, Manager, Operations; Jacquelyn Zebos, Manager, Administrative and Reference Services; Suzanne George, Manager, Library Facilities Planning & Design; Marcee Challener, Manager, Materials & Circulation Services; Lisa Wagner, Coordinator, Administrative Services & Grants; Aracelis Putnam, Administrative Specialist; and Ricardo Cox, Assistant County Attorney.

The meeting was called to order at 4:08 p.m. A quorum was present.

Minutes from the July 24, 2008 Library Board meeting were reviewed and approved with changes.

There were no presentations from the public.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee—

Marcee Challener presented an overview of the library book buying process. The Board requested Ms. Challener provide an analysis report on the library's collection of foreign language materials for the October Library Board meeting.

Dr. Scheuerle reported that a response was received from the Upper Tampa Bay Library Foundation concerning the funds in their account for building purposes. The Upper Tampa Bay Library Foundation has raised \$25,613.45 according to a guide to charitable giving in Florida report dated December 31, 2007.

As part of the discussion concerning a library in Gibsonton, Mr. Johnson distributed blueprints of the proposed facility and financial information supplied by the owner of the shopping plaza. The Budget Committee will continue discussion of the proposed Gibsonton library at their next meeting.

Dr. Scheuerle brought forth a suggestion on behalf of the Budget Committee that the Library Board, together with the Friends of the Library, take part in a fundraiser to benefit the victim of the Bloomingdale incident. Dr. Scheuerle, Mr. Martin and Mr. DeMarco volunteered to attend an upcoming meeting of the Friends of the Library on September 9th at 6:30 p.m. to explore the possibility of a fundraiser with the Friends.

The next meeting of the Budget Committee is scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 4:00 p.m. at John F. Germany Public Library, Martin Luther King Room.

Planning Committee—

The Planning Committee did not have a quorum at their August 26th meeting. Mr. Johnson reported that the Committee received an update concerning the Saunders Library/Booker T. Washington Elementary School walkway. The School Board is scheduled to meet on September 16th where they will consider approval of an interlocal agreement.

Mr. Wullschleger recently met with representatives of Newland Communities to discuss their proposal to place a library in the town center within Lake Hutto, a subdivision west of Fishhawk. Mr. Wullschleger advised Newland that it would not meet space requirements and informed them of Library Services' intent to proceed with future plans for a library located in the County Parks & Recreation facility at Fishhawk.

The Planning Committee continues to work on developing a process for ranking unfunded projects.

The next meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for September 23, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at John F. Germany Public Library, Martin Luther King Room.

Policy & Bylaws Committee—

Dr. Hires made two motions on behalf of the Policy & Bylaws Committee for Board consideration.

The Committee recommended that the Board give permission for library staff to work with the Assistant County Attorney to explore revisions to the BOCC accounts receivable policy and report back to the Board at a future date. Mr. Argus seconded and the Board gave its unanimous approval. The Committee also recommended Board approval of the library's policy concerning donated assets as revised. The motion was seconded by Dr. Scheuerle and was carried unanimously.

The next meeting of the Policy & Bylaws Committee is scheduled for September 25, 2008, 3:00 p.m. at College Hill Library.

Unfinished Business

Mr. Stines informed the Board that review of library security by the ad-hoc committee was on going.

New Business

The Board appointed a nominating committee for the selection of new officers. The following members volunteered to serve on the committee: Margaret Fisher, William Scheuerle and Christopher Rosbough.

Mr. DeMarco encouraged all Board members to attend at least one event of “The Big Read,” whose main theme is the novel, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, by native Florida author, Zora Neal Hurston. Brochures are available throughout the library.

Mr. Rosbough inquired about the circulation and display of gay material within the libraries. He is aware the topic was addressed some years ago by the Board of County Commissioners and he wondered whether any material was pulled from the collection as a result. Mr. Stines explained that the collection was never affected and that the issue had more to do with a hand-made display created by a former part-time employee. The ordinance passed by the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) extends to all County facilities and can only be rescinded by a super majority vote. Mr. Rosbough asked about the possibility of referring the topic to the Policy & Bylaws Committee to explore making the libraries exempt from the ordinance. Mr. DeMarco agreed the Library Board should go on record as expressing disapproval via a letter to the BOCC recommending they revisit their decision. Mr. Johnson requested that library staff go back through the records to see what action was taken by the Library Board when the issue was first reviewed. Mr. Martin requested the information be provided to the Policy & Bylaws Committee. No formal vote was taken on the matter.

Director’s Report

Ms. Gillon shared a proclamation from the City of Tampa concerning the The Big Read program. The kick-off event will be held on Saturday, September 6th at Hillsborough Community College-Ybor Campus. Related programs will be held throughout the month of September at various locations. All Library Board members were urged to attend.

Mr. Stines thanked the Board for their attendance at the recent North Tampa groundbreaking ceremony.

The Board was briefed concerning the changes that will take place on the fourth floor of the east building at John F. Germany Library.

Ms. Challener provided a follow-up report on changes in the library hold limits that were put into effect on June 1, 2008 (signage was in place in the month May informing customers of coming changes). Ms. Challener has been tracking the number of complaints. Several complaints have come from homeschoolers as well as some letters in support of the policy changes. Ms. Challener has responded to these customer complaints with suggestions on ways to manage their holds lists.

In response to complaints about the increase in fines, staff is developing a written appeals process to go with the fines and fees schedule policy.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

Planning Committee—Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 3:00 p.m. @ John F. Germany, MLK Room

Budget Committee—Tuesday, September 23, 2008, 4:00 p.m. @ John F. Germany, MLK Room
Policy & Bylaws Committee—Thursday, September 25, 2008, 3:00 p.m. @ College Hill Library
Library Board—Thursday, September 23, 2008, 4:00 p.m. @ College Hill Library