

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Special Meeting

May 8, 2012

President Kinloch called the Special Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 10:55 a.m.

Present: Administrative Staff: Trinee Moore, Maria Norfolk

Present also: Benita Beckles, Orelia Brown, Margaret Bruni, Ronald Bryant, Randy Call, Valerie Glenn, Tyrand Goodwin, Sandra Hines, Kenya Howard, Victor Ibegbu, Christine McDonald, Mike McElgunn, Toya McGregor, Trinee Moore, Carolyn Mosley, Cledos Powell, Yvette Rice, Alma Simmons, Tiffani Simmon, Tracey Wyatt and others.

CERTIFICATION OF CALL AND POSTING OF MEETING NOTICE

President Kinloch asked Yvette Rice, Executive Assistant, to read a statement that she had prepared regarding the meeting notice. It stated that on Monday, May 7, 2012 at approximately 9:15 a.m., she received a communication from President Jonathan C. Kinloch calling for the posting of a Special Commission Meeting Notice of the Detroit Library Commission to be held on Tuesday, May 7, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. in the Explores Room.

Ms. Rice certified that the aforementioned notice stating the time, date, location and purpose of the meeting was posted on Monday, May 7, 2012 on or about 11:15 a.m.

ROLL CALL

A Roll Call was taken with the following results:

President Kinloch	-	Present
Commissioner Thomas	-	Present
Commissioner Jackson	-	Present
Commissioner Quarterman	-	Not Present
Commissioner Bellant	-	Not Present
Commissioner Lemmons	-	Not Present
Commissioner Hicks	-	Not Present

There not being a quorum, President Kinloch adjourned the Special Commission Meeting and reconvened as a Committee of the Whole of the Detroit Library Commission.

President Kinloch called the Committee of the Whole of the Detroit Library Commission Meeting to order at 10:59 a.m.

Present: President Kinloch, Commissioners, Jackson and Thomas

President Kinloch recognized Commissioner Thomas for the purpose of making a motion.

PERSONNEL MATTER – Action Item

Commissioner Thomas stated it was no great pleasure to make the motion he was about to make. He said because of some things that had occurred recently, he felt he no longer had an option relative to the particular motion.

Commission Action

Commissioner Thomas made a motion to immediately place the Executive Director on administrative leave with pay for the remainder of the term of her employment agreement until August 24, 2012. The appropriate Detroit Public Library administrative staff is directed to forthwith receive in their care and secure all Detroit Public Library property under the custody of the Executive Director.

President Kinloch made a subsequent motion to be attached to the above motion without objection, to waive any reconsideration upon adoption of the above motion.

Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. The motion was adopted and will be brought before the full Commission for ratification at the May 15, 2012 Commission Meeting.

President Kinloch stated for matter of clarification, that in January 2012, the Detroit Library Commission voted not to renew the contract of the Executive Director ending August 24, 2012. The motion to place the Executive Director on paid administrative leave is a subsequent action relating to the non-renewal of the Executive Director's contract.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Sandra Hines – Expressed her concern of four libraries slated to close in Detroit and she was unable to obtain any information from the administration to justify the closings.

Valerie Glenn - Expressed her concern regarding the Commissioners and the community was not provided with information requested relating to the library's budget and branch closures.

Orelia Brown – She thanked the Commissioners that were present for making their decision of selecting a new Executive Director.

President Kinloch stated that the Detroit Public Library has only received 40 percent of the budgeted property tax revenue from the City of Detroit. He said he does not feel the urgency coming from the executive staff as it relates to providing the Commission with the necessary information regarding the financial state of the library system.

He said the Commission has not been updated or aware of the financial crisis that looms over the library system that may cause the Commission to lay-off additional staff and possibly closing or consolidation additional libraries.

President Kinloch said he felt the public or the Commission has not been adequately served by the individual who served as the Executive Director of this system. He said he took his responsibility and oath on the Commission very seriously. He said individuals can take sides however they choose but the library system is falling apart because it has inadequate leadership at the top. He said he does not believe in micromanaging but there comes a time when the Commission has to step up.

President Kinloch said the Detroit Public Library is facing a financial catastrophe. He said if individuals do not feel like stepping up to problems then they need to step down from the Commission.

Commissioner Jackson apologized to the public for starting the meeting late but the Commission did not anticipate the "skullduggery or sabotage" by individuals showing up at the meeting and walking out trying to destroy the purpose of the meeting. He said it shows the weakness of their position. He said the individuals did not have the courage to stay at the meeting and explain their position.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.