

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

APRIL 19, 2011

President Thomas called the Regular Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 1:40 p.m.

Present: President Thomas, Commissioners Bellant, Keith, Kinloch, and Quarterman

Administrative Staff: Executive Director Mondowney, Cromer, Machie, Moore, and Norfolk

Excused: Commissioner Adams and Hicks

Present Also: Joel Anyim, Vickie Baker, Byron Barnhill II, Janet Batchelder, Sheryl Beck, Benita Beckles, Ruth Biersdorf, Mark Bowden, Ryan Boyd, Joan Brand, Anni Broughton, Margaret Bruni, Maria Bryson, Randy Call, Minnie Calvin, Kenneth Cannon, Enid Clark, Nicole Conaway, Lokia Daniels, Rudy Dale, India Davis, John Davis, Deborah Dorsey, Lawrence Dorsey II, Jennifer Dye, Lewis Enoch, James Evenhuis, Michael A. Fleming, A.J. Funchess, Doris Haskins, Lisa Houston, Victor Ibegbu, Paula Kaczmarek, Rosa L. Kelley, Kelley Kencik, Cally Kypros, Ray Lambert, Mary Law, Jacqueline Lawson, Deborah Madison, Dorothy Manty, Ann Matteson, Carolyn McCormick, Mike McElgunn, Patrice Merritt, Dori Middleton, Roger Morton, Carolyn Mosley, Nasheen Motley, Sue Nairn, Barbara Naragon, Judith Paduch, Melissa Parker, Rose Patterson, Christine Peele, Pat Petrone, Cledos Powell, Charles Plummer, Carrie Pruitt, David Rambaugh, Yvette Rice, Carole Rihani, Jeanne Salathial, Anna Savvides, Jeffrey Senior, Barbara Sherwood, Alma Simmons, Dortha Simpson, Shakir Smith, Rick Sowinski, Karresha Staniel, Sidney Stokes, Bettina Strickland, Laurie Stuart, Jackie Sullen, Eileen Sullivan, Lester Swint, DeAndre Talley, Susan Taylor, Viola Taylor, Charles Thompson, Tim Tompkins, Sharon Vlahovich, Mary Jo Vortkamp, Cheryl Walker, Michael Wells, Cheryle Williams, Seantelle Williams and others.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Thomas thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the meeting. He asked that everyone be courteous and respectful. He hoped the Library would come to a speedy resolution that would continue to provide library service for everyone. He

summarized the Library's financial situation as going from anticipated revenues of \$40 million dipping down to projected revenues of \$13 million, within the next four years. The City and the Library would suffer from the census count; the 750,000, a magic number for state funds, would play a key role in our revenues.

The Library is in the process of developing a realistic plan. Information came out in the paper with three proposals to address the deficit. The plan has not been finalized.

### MINUTES

The minutes of the Regular Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2011, Special Meeting Minutes of March 23, 2011, Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes of March 25, 2011, and the Special Meeting Minutes of April 6, 2011 were adopted with any necessary corrections to be made.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

*Dr. David Rambeau*

One problem with the Library is its incompetent Library Staff and the Detroit Library Commission; for example, spending \$50,000 on a worthless program such as tutor.com and hiring a guest speaker for \$5,000 who gave incorrect information.

*Medgar Clark*

A life-long Library patron presented a letter to Commission asking to spare closing so many branches and to look at ways to change services that would reduce costs.

*Helen Gentry*

Asked what are the criteria used to determine which neighborhood libraries will be maintained or closed.

*Joseph Schillmoeller*

He offered to volunteer at Elmwood to help the staff and save costs so that his branch could stay open.

*Barbara Sherwood*

She found the proposals reported in the paper were unacceptable and that there must be alternatives. Other institutions have had financial crisis and stayed open; she hoped the Commission would develop such a plan.

*Regina Ann Campbell*

Her mother, Bernadette Charles, is a librarian at DPL. She hoped to be able to work with the Library to keep most of the branches open. She and the community have the ability to lead the effort.

*Nicole Conaway*

The reasons for closings are the same excuses as for the schools closing which are not acceptable. She is willing to organize and asked those interested to talk with her.

*Kenneth Cannon, Security Guard, Main Library*

As a member of AFSCME Local 1259 and the Library's Security Staff, he opposed privatizing security. He has dedicated his life to serving DPL and will fight to preserve the Security Staff.

*Ashley Matthews*

She is a Detroit resident and student who was outraged that branches would close when people need them so much. She takes her two-year old daughter to Chaney Branch.

*James K. Smith*

He said no one pays attention until things are taken away and it was time to stand up.

*Ruth Biersdorf, Hubbard Branch Manager*

She asked how large is the unfunded pension obligation. Mr. Cromer said it was around \$40 million; we have been paying the interest on it.

*President Thomas*

How did we get to this point? Four years ago, the Library was told by the City's Treasury Department to reduce its budget by 5%. Instead, the Library reduced its budget by 7% to preserve a cushion. The reality was a 20% reduction in revenues. He did not believe even the City knew the facts until it started collecting the taxes. Future revenue projections given by the City are shocking—a 60 % reduction!

*Steve Conn, Teacher, Cass Tech High School*

He has done everything he can to support the City and felt we all must stand up for Detroit—Detroit is "Ground 0."

*Ed Scholl, Security Guard, Main Library, Skillman Branch*

It is important not to repeat mistakes. He shared a story about a 9-1-11 incident that resulted because the airlines approved a low bid for an inferior product. He did not want to see the Library use a contracted security service as it would not provide the best skilled staff for protecting the Library's customers and staff.

*Marquise Portersfield*

She asked to keep the Libraries open.

*Ade Oba Abdalla*

He represented the *Energy Efficiency and Environmental Health Services Task Force* and offered a funding solution: turn buildings into smart energy centers and rebuild our grid, so that we can generate funding for the Libraries.

*Dean Davis*

The Library in his community, Wilder Branch, is a pillar for the children who are our future. He said that knowledge is a powerful tool. He asked if it was possible to get grants to keep the libraries open.

*Carolyn Burgess-McCormick, Coordinator, Douglass Branch*

She asked to have information about the Library's financial situation so that she can inform customers. She is on the frontlines serving customers who are upset and asking questions.

*Wyberkeisha Eaton*

She and her daughter often go to the Library. They know the staff and enjoy going on Saturdays. She asked to please find money to remain open.

President Thomas concluded the public comment segment and acknowledged and thanked the President of the Detroit City Council, Charles Pugh, for attending this meeting.

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Mrs. Mondowney reported:*

#### One Book, One Community

DPL's One Book, One Community Program was an overwhelming success. This year's selection – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, by Rebecca Skloot, read by hundreds of people, sparked lively conversation about medical ethics, informed consent, poverty, illiteracy, family relationships and health care in America. The culminating event with Ms. Skloot was so well attended; scores of people were turned away. Mrs. Mondowney thanked the many staff for a job well done. Special thanks again is due to our partners and sponsors: the American Cancer Society, Wayne State University's Shiffman Medical Library, School of Medicine and Office of Research, Karmanos Cancer Institute, the Health Alliance Plan, Wayne County Community College District, the Detroit Science Center, Health Alliance Plan, Children's Museum, and the DPL Friends Foundation.

#### Junior Great Books Program

Approximately 200 students participated in this year's Junior Great Books Program. The 2011 Awards Ceremony was held Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> in the Friends Auditorium. Students received plaques and certificates. Dr. Glenda Price, President Emerita of Marygrove College, offered congratulations and in her inspirational speech, she shared her experiences of reading and how it contributed to her success in life.

#### Author Visit for National Library Week

Javaka Steptoe, an award winning author, illustrator and recipient of the *Coretta Scott King Illustrator Award* visited DPL last week during National Library Week. Hundreds of students from area schools enjoyed Mr. Steptoe's multi-media presentation that

included a musician who enhanced the discussion of his award winning book, *Jimi, Sounds Like A Rainbow: A Story of the Young Jimi Hendrix*. Mr. Steptoe was pleased that he was introduced to the audience by a 2<sup>nd</sup> grader and a 12<sup>th</sup> grader.

#### DPL Friends Foundation

The DPL Friends Foundation recently provided the funds for the purchase of a digital scanner and monitor for use in the Popular Library, costing over \$7,000. Many thanks go to Patrice Merritt and the DPL Friends Foundation for giving such a great gift to the Popular Library.

#### Materials Donated

In March, DPL received a donation of books and DVDs published by The Stuttering Foundation from Mr. Jigger Sirois, a resident of Williamsburg, Virginia. Mr. Sirois is committed to making these resources available to public libraries around the country. The gift was made in honor of Oprah Winfrey. Since 1947, The Stuttering Foundation has provided resources, services and support to those who stutter as well as support for research into the causes of stuttering.

### *Upcoming Events*

#### *Celebrate Authors* .....

#### Saturday, April 30, 2:00 p.m. @ Main Library

Dr. Tim LaHaye, author, minister and nationally-recognized speaker on Biblical prophecy will talk about his new series, *The End*, which includes the *Edge of Apocalypse*. He has written many prophecy books and more than 60 other non-fiction books.

#### Author Day is Tuesday, May 10, 6:00 p.m. @ Main Library

Simone Elkeles was voted *best* author by Detroit students in grades 7-9. *Perfect Chemistry* is a New York Times and USA Today bestseller and has also received numerous awards such as the *2010 Top Ten YALSA Quick Picks for Reluctant Young Readers*. It is a love story that takes readers to both sides of the tracks, breaking through stereotypes, and looking beneath the surface.

#### Saturday, May 14, 2:00 p.m. @ Douglass Branch

Joyce Fay Fletcher, author of *The Library*, will visit Douglass Branch. Her latest novel is a tale about an urban librarian. Ms. Fletcher was a former librarian for the Washington, D.C. Public Library and is currently a school librarian.

#### FY 2011 and FY 2012 Recommendations

The staff has been working very hard on developing a plan for budget recommendations. When the plan is ready, it will be presented to the Committee on Administration and the Committee on Finance.

COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Approval of Human Resources Office Report

Commissioner Kinloch read the Human Resources Office Monthly Report that listed personnel actions for new hires, separations, and retirements.

**SEPARATIONS**

Justin Tyler, effective March 18, 2011  
Taneca Chapman Mills, effective March 19, 2011  
Ashley Koebel, effective March 19, 2011  
Tara Givhan, effective, April 15, 2011  
Marsha Hansard, effective March 19, 2011  
Jermaine Gore, effective March 19, 2011  
Jesse Cleary, effective March 19, 2011  
Anna O'Connor, effective March 19, 2011  
Amisha Harijan, effective March 19, 2011  
Kathryn Johnson, effective March 18, 2011  
Johnny Bourdeaux, effective March 19, 2011  
Barbara Parker, effective March 19, 2011  
Toni Sims-Lyles, effective March 19, 2011  
Michael Pyciak, effective March 19, 2011  
Valerie Phillips, effective March 19, 2011  
Gerald Distelrath, effective March 18, 2011  
Michael McCord, effective March 18, 2011  
Allen Williams, effective March 18, 2011  
Warren Gaither, effective March 19, 2011  
Bobby Walter, effective March 19, 2011  
Tracie Etheridge, effective March 19, 2011  
Mary Law, effective March 19, 2011  
Justin Walker, effective March 19, 2011  
Nicole Martin, effective March 18, 2011  
David Hall, effective March 18, 2011  
Catherine Dover-Taylor, effective March 19, 2011  
Annette Lotharp, effective March 19, 2011  
Kalana Cooper, effective March 19, 2011  
Jennifer Dye, effective March 19, 2011  
Sharia Taylor, effective March 19, 2011

**RETIREMENTS**

Shirley Perkins, effective April 8, 2011

Commission Action

On motion of Commissioner Kinloch and seconded by Commissioner Quarterman, the personnel action report was unanimously adopted.

Authorization to Amend Policy on Computer Use

Commissioner Kinloch reported that the Committee on Administration reviewed four service policy amendment requests on March 9, 2011 and authorized staff to post the proposed revisions for public comments. Notices were posted at all library locations and on the Library’s website from March 10 through March 25.

Following discussion and review of the comments from staff and public, the Committee on Administration recommends the following policy amendment:

<b>CURRENT POLICY</b>	<b>RECOMMENDED POLICY</b>	<b>RATIONALE FOR CHANGE</b>
Customers with fines, lost or overdue items are allowed to use Library computers.	Prohibit customers with \$10 fines on their Library cards from using Library computers.	Restriction is considered an incentive to bring Library books back and pay fines

The Committee on Administration tabled the other three policy areas, pending review of additional information requested from staff.

Commission Action

Commissioner Kinloch moved to approve amending the Computer Use Policy by prohibiting customers with \$10 or more in fines on their Library cards from using Library computers. Commissioner Keith seconded the motion; the motion carried.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Routine Report on Finance

The following accounts have been examined and found correct by the staff of Financial and Business Operations and ratification of payment was recommended.

Summary of Expenditures	
<b><u>PUBLIC FUNDS</u></b>	
Capital Improvement Expenditures	\$0.00
Total Vouchers 1043-1208 & IPOs****	\$1,116,130.42
Total Payroll & Benefits	\$2,011,458.36
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>\$3,127,588.78</u></b>

Summary of Expenditures	
<b><u>Restricted/Designated Funds</u></b>	
Branch & Main Checking - Checks 1712-1718	\$2,573.06
Burton Endowment Fund Checking - Checks 8139-8143	\$4,269.05
Knight Foundation grant - Checks 1104-1137	\$21,899.74
Programs & Gifts Checking - Check 1398-1400	\$1,334.31
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b><u>\$30,076.16</u></b>

Commission Action

On motion of Commissioner Kinloch, the recommendation of the Committee on Finance as set forth above was unanimously adopted.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Kinloch asked if there were any new contracts since Commission had passed a motion for all contracts to be signed by the President and the Secretary. Mr. Cromer confirmed that there had not been any new contracts.

President Thomas concluded the meeting by thanking everyone, once again, for attending the meeting and assuring them that the Detroit Library Commission will be attentive to their comments and suggestions and they will be passed on to the Committee on Administration and the Executive Director. Future meetings will be posted on the website.

Commissioner Keith said he appreciated the passionate remarks he heard. It was evident that if people did not care, they would not be here. We are in a tough spot. Commission plans to engage the communities.

Commissioner Bellant said he was willing to meet and talk with anyone about their concerns.

Commissioner Quarterman said that work has to be continuous using our hearts and minds to see what solutions can be found. It is important to keep communications open.



Commissioner Kinloch appreciated the letters sent since his email address had been posted on the website and will recommend they be referred to staff to be considered to become part of our plan.

NEW BUSINESS

The Honorable Charles Pugh, President, Detroit City Council, said the City was facing the same budget constraints. He announced that the City of Detroit's first budget hearing would be Tuesday, April 26, 2011, 5:00 p.m. in the Erma L. Henderson Auditorium and the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.