

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL MEETING

JUNE 27, 2014

10:00 A.M.

President Hicks called the Special Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 10:15 a.m.

Present: President Hicks, Commissioners Bellant, Jackson, Quarterman

Administrative Staff: Mondowney, Funchess, Norfolk, Powell

Excused: Commissioners Inniss-Edwards, Thomas

Present Also: Deborah Dorsey, Carolyn Mosley, Yvette Rice

**AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT WITH BERG MUIRHEAD AND ASSOCIATES  
FOR PR SERVICES FOR THE DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY MILLAGE CAMPAIGN**

The Detroit Public Library (DPL) has a 4.0 millage that will expire on June 30, 2015. DPL has placed a request for Detroit residents to approve this 10 year millage renewal on the August 5 primary ballot. Failure to renew this millage will force the closure of the city's library system, including the main library and 21 branch libraries and also its bookmobile. In addition to losing access to the Detroit Library and losing borrowing privileges to partner libraries, residents would lose literacy programs, job seeking opportunities and access to resources families might not be able to afford. Ultimately, it also would be a strong blow to a sense of community in Detroit.

Discussion

Commissioner Hicks suggested adding an amendment to the proposed contract that would consist of a weekly progress update to the administrative staff.

**COMMISSION ACTION**

After a thorough discussion, the following action was taken:

Commissioner Bellant moved to contract with Berg Muirhead and Associates for PR services for the Detroit Public Library millage campaign with the amendment of the administrative staff receiving a weekly progress update for a total amount not to exceed \$129,420. Commissioner Jackson supported.

The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes were approved at the September 23, 2014 Commission Meeting

## **UPDATE ON LITERACY TOWN HALL MEETING**

Mrs. Mondowney stated that Ms. Juliet Machie, Deputy Director, had originated a conversation with Ms. Karen Dumas, Communication Professional, in the interest of hosting a literacy town hall meeting on July 23, 2014

Mrs. Mondowney stated that she also had a conversation with Ms. Dumas regarding this matter and Ms. Dumas felt this was an excellent event to host, however, time was not on DPL's side.

Ms. Dumas said this event would have a much greater impact if it was hosted in September or October.

Commissioner Bellant suggested building publicity for the literacy town hall meeting during the millage campaign.

President Hicks suggested that on July 23, 2014, DPL could put out a "*Call for Papers*" to practitioners and the academic community to provide the library with their research and information relative to literacy.

Commissioner Quarterman stated she liked the idea but would tone down reaching out to the academic community.

Commissioner Bellant suggested receiving a schedule of library events so that the Commission could speak to the public regarding the millage.

For the purpose of clarification, Mrs. Mondowney summarized that the Commission would like DPL to put out a press release on July 23, 2014 emphasizing the work the library has done regarding literacy and put out a "*Call for Papers*".

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