

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

REGULAR MEETING

DECEMBER 20, 2011

President Thomas called the Regular Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 2:12 p.m.

Present: President Thomas, Commissioners Bellant, Jackson, Kinloch, Quarterman, and Annie Carter, Representative for Ex-Officio Tyrone Winfrey

Administrative Staff: Cromer, Machie, Moore and Norfolk

Excused: Executive Director Mondowney and Commissioner Hicks

Present Also: Toni Adams, Benita Beckles, Andre Benjamin, Davina Brooks, Egypt Brooks, India Brooks, Marion Brown, Orelia Brown, Margaret Bruni, Robert Bryant, David Bullock, J. Randolph Call, Eric Campell, Justin Calhoun, Rev. Gary L. Cooper, Terry Davis, Atiim Funchess, Valerie Glenn, Elisa Grubbs, Sandra Hines, Mark Hoffman, Jay Henderson, Sandra Hines, Joshua Hughes, Sheila Jackson, Tabrian Joe, LaTanya Kirk, Joshua Klarr, Michael Kennedy, Michelle Klinger, Ray Lambert, Kierianna Long, Mike McElgunn, Victor Mendez, Tyrana Morris, Carolyn Mosley, Valerie Parker, Angel Patterson, Rosemary Patterson, Michael Plum, Cledos Powell, David Rambeau, Pastor C. Retland, Isaac Robinson, Rev. Maurice Rudds, Bob Sanders, Anna Savvides, Joyce Schon, Min Malik Shabazz, Tiffani Simon, Alma Simmons, Monica Smith, Maureen Stapleton, Brenda Taylor, Tristan Taylor, Alberta Tinsley Talabi, Tim Tompkins, Joe Tabrian, Gerald Underwood, Shondra Vaughn, J. Warren, Savonte Warren, Willie Williams, Tyler Wood, Tracy Wyatt, and others

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 15, 2011 and the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 30, 2011 were approved with any necessary corrections to be made.

PUBLIC COMMENTS—BRANCH CLOSURES

Over thirty members of the public voiced their disagreement with the Commission's approval to close four branch libraries. Some asked for a reprieve

on the closings to allow more time to find funding. Several children spoke or carried poster signs asking that the four libraries be spared from closure.

Commissioner Kinloch said he understood the sentiments expressed by the members of the public. After dealing with the closure issue for nearly a year, Commission voted to close the four branches. He explained that DPL made fiscally sound decisions but the continued decline in revenues resulted in the branch closures. Commissioner Kinloch said revenue projections from the City of Detroit indicated the Library would not have enough revenue and should expect to see future declines in revenues. Additional cuts may need to be made. Commissioner Kinloch said he does not want to close other libraries and if additional ways of funding are found, the branches could re-open. At the present, the Commission cannot allow the system to collapse. Commissioner Kinloch said discussions will be held at future meetings about obtaining a supplemental millage, seeking help from corporations and other ways to find additional funding. Commissioner Kinloch suggested members of the public leave their cards or contact information.

Monica Smith asked what happens when the buildings close. Mr. Powell said the buildings will be boarded up with a security system intact after the building is empty. Ms. Machie said the materials will go to other libraries. Schools and the public will still have access to 19 other branch libraries and the Main Library. Staff will remain in the closed branches to process materials and decommission the building.

President Thomas informed the members of the public that Commissioners are volunteers and do not get paid. He said that he and the other Commissioners are taxpayers as well and have a deep love for the Library. He mentioned his own neighborhood branch, Utley Branch, also closed in the past. He said he spent every Saturday with his brother at the branch. President Thomas added that no one has been disrespected, but he wishes it was reciprocal. Nobody wanted to have to close the branches.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ms. Machie presented Ms. Mondowney's report.

Children's Library Update

Ms. Mondowney reported that the new and improved Children's area is ready for occupancy by Library staff. The area has many books, computers, game stations, a large screen TV and a comfortable section for parents. Public service staff is planning a grand unveiling for the community in January 2012.

Noel Night 2011

Over 10,800 people walked through the Main Library's doors to participate in the 39th Annual Noel Night. This represents a 34% increase over last year's

Minutes approved at the January 17, 2012 DLC Meeting.

attendance. Major attractions included the Hudson Vagabond Puppets, “Snow Queen”, a life sized puppet production from New York, a live DJ with music and dancing, free doughnuts and cider, dance ensembles by the Edward Duke Ellington Elementary Middle School, Martin Luther King Sr. High School, the DPL Chorus, and “Dance Motion Xplosion”, and Thornetta Davis.

Detroit Young Professionals

On December 7, Hajj Flemings, brand specialist and founder of Brand Camp University, the largest personal branding conference in the Midwest, interacted with an enthusiastic group of young professionals at Main. Mr. Flemings who is also the author of *The Brand U Life: Rethinking Who You Are Through Personal Brand Management* generously shared his expertise on the topic of personal branding.

Meeting with Roy Roberts

On December 1, Roy Roberts, Emergency Manager for Detroit Public Schools, visited Main Library. He noted that this was his first time at Main and he was interested in library programs that supported school children.

Year End Message

Mrs. Mondowney reported that 2011 has been a year filled with challenges. It began with the painful task of reducing the workforce and, sadly, it will end with preparations to close four branch libraries. As the Library looks toward 2012, it is with the hope that it will bring many opportunities for new directions and growth. DPL must pursue creative ways to continue to provide meaningful library services to the citizens of Detroit. This is an enormous task that will require the best thinking, hard work and a collaborative spirit of the Commission, administration, staff, Friends and citizens.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Routine Reports on Finance

Commissioner Kinloch reported that the following accounts have been examined and found correct by the staff of the Financial and Business Operations and ratification of payment is recommended.

Summary of Expenditures December 2011	
<u>PUBLIC FUNDS</u>	
Total Payroll & Benefits	\$1,702,463.61
Total Vouchers 301 - 377	<u>\$ 222,200.85</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$1,924,664.46</u>

Summary of Expenditures December 2011	
<u>Restricted/Designated Funds</u>	
Branch & Main Checking – Checks 1862 - 1876	\$60,695.73
Burton Endowment Fund Checking – Checks 8179 - 8183	\$ 671.48
Knight Foundation grant – Checks 1313 - 1338	\$ 7,119.20
Louise Webber O’Brien Fund – Check s 4199 - 4205	\$ 5,122.65
Programs & Gifts Checking – Check 1522 - 1527	<u>\$17,848.85</u>
Grand Total	<u>\$91,457.91</u>

Commission Action

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

Meeting Conclusion

President Thomas thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and for their ideas; follow up will be done and suggestions reviewed.

There being no further business to come before the meeting; the meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.