

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

Special Meeting

January 10, 2012

President Thomas called the Special Meeting of Detroit Library Commission to order at 10:33 a.m.

Present: President Thomas and Commissioners Bellant, Hicks, Jackson, Kinloch, Quarterman, and Annie Carter, Ex-Officio

Administrative staff: Mondowney, Cromer, Machie

Trinee Moore and Maria Norfolk were present after the closed session.

Others Present: Rosemary Patterson, Recorder for Public Session

Tony Feyers, UAW International Representative, Atiim Funchess, Carolyn Mosley, Alma Simmons, and Laurie Stuart were present prior to closed session.

Benita Beckles, Margaret Bruni, Valerie Glenn, Sandra Hines, Mike McElgunn, Carolyn Mosley, Alma Simmons, and Atiim Funchess were present after the closed session.

Public Comments

Laurie Stuart, President, UAW Local 2200, accompanied by Tony Feyers, UAW International Representative, said she knew Commission was in the process of evaluating the Executive Director. Ms. Stuart said she had polled her executive board and was there to give her support as well as the UAW's support for Mrs. Mondowney's leadership. Ms. Stuart said the UAW was grateful for Mrs. Mondowney's role in saving the Detroit Library Cooperative's existence because she lobbied to change the legislation lowering the population requirement down to 600,000. Ms. Stuart commended Mrs. Mondowney's ending some of the outside contracts that saved DPL several million dollars. Ms. Stuart appreciated how Mrs. Mondowney has fostered communication and transparency through her willingness to have dialogue with the Union. Ms. Stuart suggested that the prudent course of action by Commission was to retain Mrs. Mondowney as the Executive Director; the next period ahead for the Library would be difficult as the Library seeks to find other funding. In conclusion, Ms. Stuart said how important it was for the public to believe the leadership is trustworthy. She said the UAW was always available to answer any questions that the Commission may have.

### COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Kinloch said he had asked Trinee Moore to forward a copy of the proposed amendment to the DLC Rules and Regulations to the Commissioners. The item would be placed on the agenda for the January Commission meeting. He said the reason for the change was because an individual was placed in a position that gave him a \$6,000 pay increase during the difficult financial times. Commissioner Kinloch said he wanted Commission to approve any future changes for assistant director positions.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commissioner Kinloch noted that Annie Carter was the new Ex-Officio Commissioner and was a voting member. President Thomas explained that Mr. Winfrey was no longer the President of the school board and since its rules placed Ms. Carter as President of the school board, she was now the Ex-Officio Commissioner.

President Thomas asked for a motion to go into executive session to discuss the Executive Director's evaluation. Commissioner Kinloch said according to the State law, Mrs. Mondowney has the right to request a closed session for her evaluation. Mrs. Mondowney confirmed that she had requested a closed session for her evaluation. On motion duly made by Commissioner Kinloch, seconded by Commissioner Quarterman, the motion carried. A roll call vote was taken; President Thomas and Commissioners Bellant, Carter, Jackson, Kinloch, Quarterman and Thomas voted yes. Commissioner Hicks was not present for the vote but later joined the meeting shortly after the closed session began. The public was excused at 10:41 a.m.

The public session reconvened at 12:43 p.m.

### PUBLIC COMMENTS

After the public session reconvened, a member of the public requested permission to make public comments. The Commissioners agreed to allow time once again for public comments.

Sandra Hines said she was on a committee to save Monteith, asked Commission to reconsider closing Monteith Branch. She said the library is the only thing standing that has any kind of vitality. Ms. Hines said the branch provided activities for the children, served as a warming and cooling center, as well as a place for those who loved to read. Ms. Hines said that if the person responsible for finding funds has not done so in several years, then "get someone else to do it."

Committee on Administration

Executive Director's Contract

Commission Action

Commissioner Kinloch made a motion to not renew the Executive Director's contract upon its expiration date of August 24, 2012. Commissioner Jackson seconded the motion. A voice response indicated yes and no votes. President Thomas then took a roll call vote. Commissioner Kinloch voted yes, Commissioner Hicks voted no, Commissioner Bellant voted no, Commissioner Carter did not vote but said she needed clarification on the motion, Commissioner Jackson voted yes, Commissioner Quarterman voted no, and President Thomas voted yes. After the vote was completed, Commissioner Kinloch tried to clarify the motion for Commissioner Carter. Commissioner Carter asked if this was a termination. Commissioner Kinloch said the current contract would not be renewed but Commission could decide on a new contract. He also said that the Commission does not have to issue a contract to any employee; they could all be at-will appointees. Commissioner Kinloch said a national search could be done. Commissioner Carter said she voted yes on the motion. President Thomas said the motion carried by a four to three vote not to renew the Executive Director's contract.

Commissioner Hicks questioned the legitimacy of the vote because Commissioner Carter gave her vote after the vote was completed; therefore the motion failed with a tie vote. President Thomas said Ms. Carter's vote was a yes vote that resulted in a carried motion.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.