

DETROIT LIBRARY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS

SPECIAL MEETING

March 23, 2011

President Thomas called the Special Meeting of the Detroit Library Commission to order at 1:05 p.m.

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

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

Excused: Commissioners Adams and Kinloch

Present also: Ronald Bryant, Enid Clark, Atiim Funchess, Robert Marcelain, Carolyn Mosley, Maria Norfolk, Uzo Onyemaechi, Rosemary Patterson, Cledos Powell, Carol Rihani, Yvette Rice, Anna Savvides, Alma Simmons, Michael Wells, President UAW Local 2200 and others

New Business

President Thomas said Commissioner Hicks had some suggestions regarding the services offered by the Detroit Public Library.

Having been a life-long City of Detroit resident, Commissioner Hicks remembered that each floor in the Main Library had special resources. He would like the staff to not only find a way to let him and the public be reacquainted with what is in this Library, but to boast about it and publicize it. By giving the public the opportunity to understand and realize the tremendous value of the Library, it would result in more public support and more people using and benefiting from these resources. Expanding on that idea, he encouraged staff to highlight different areas in the Library each month and to include Commission to see how they could get involved. Commissioner Keith agreed it was important to tout what we have.

Secondly, as agendas permit, Commissioner Hicks said staff should identify some activity to share with the community. The online help with homework available on DPL's website for tutor.com should be flaunted as it is a jewel that is underutilized.

President Thomas was grateful to have Carole Quarterman back on board as a Commissioner. She was instrumental in the creation of an Audit Committee following the Sarbanes Oxley Act ruling on financial management for all organizations. She is the former head of the Wayne County Child Care Coordinating Council of Detroit/Wayne County, Inc.

Acceptance of Draft Audit Report

Commission Action

President Thomas moved to accept the draft audit report as presented with some necessary revisions to be made. Commissioner Keith seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Approval to Retain Legal Counsel

Commission Action

Commissioner Quarterman moved to approve retaining legal counsel to advise Commission on matters discussed in the Audit Committee's Executive Session. Commissioner Bellant seconded the motion; the motion carried.

New Business Continued

President Thomas said Commissioner Adams had emailed him and the Executive Director about an initiative for the riverfront. Mrs. Mondowney said she had spoken to Faye Nelson and John Witz regarding River Days. Mr. Witz wants to focus on literacy and centerpiece those activities with the presence of the bookmobile. The dates would be around the fireworks night. Mrs. Mondowney was excited to hear that the Library would be featured during the River Days.

President Thomas said the riverfront is a beautiful walk that he and his wife often enjoy. It is a long expanse with parks at each end and agreed this was a good step in doing just as Commissioner Hicks suggested to showcase the Library.

Old Business

Commissioner Hicks asked for an update on the proposal from the Detroit Catholic Pastoral Alliance regarding Mark Twain. He thought it should be added to the budget. President Thomas noted that he would like to have a response to them by the April date as had been promised.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.