

**DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes, Meeting of November 21, 2005  
7:00 P.M.**

**Beth Payne, Kiwanis, Durham Tech**

**Present:** Lionell Parker (Chairman), Jon Miller (Vice Chairman), Ken Berger (Secretary), Mohammad Rashdi, Al Roberts, Elsa Woods, Marian Andrews; Michael Page (Liaison to the County Commissioners); and library staff Priscilla Lewis, Rheda Epstein and Jana Alexander

**Absent:** Mary Tenuta, Hugh Giblin, Philip Cherry

**The meeting was called to order in the Main Library Auditorium at 7:07 p.m.**

**Presentation of South Regional Site Plan Options by The Freelon Group**

Lionell introduced Deputy County Manager Wendell Davis, who introduced County Engineer Glen Whistler and the team from the Freelon Group. The site planners addressed two objectives: preserving the northernmost building (Lowe's Grove school) as a historic building, and the siting of the EMS station. We were presented with the two options on the table. Option 1A is along Highway 54, but short of the corner of South Alston. In its favor are adjacency to 54; a natural landscape buffer, better drainage, a greenspace buffer against backside developments, and it sets a sequence for future developments at the site, cons: more difficult access off of 54; parking and flow of traffic at speed cut off some highway visibility impact; would have to access road on South Alston as well. Option 2A is located on South Alston, north of the highway intersection. Its pros are the greenspace faces the historic site; it is closer to the existing school; parking for front entry is more efficient; traffic flow is easier; cons: future bioretention pond (though could be made attractive); part of South Alston would have to be upgraded; you would lose the old stand of trees as barrier on east. In response to questions from the floor, the guests responded that: size of sites can be flexible, but the sites include expansion room and adequate for parking needs; there is no plan for money acquired by sale of other land on the site going to the library, even though the project resulted from a bond referendum; that future development must be compatible (but no standards or rules for that have been decided); the county will be responsible for maintaining water retention pond; the state requirement that the county keep the land for five years before private development is no longer in force; concerns about safety for kids coming from the school across South Alston have not yet been addressed; concerns about the other site development projects (no answer at this time); the existing buildings south of the school will be removed before any construction begins; great that there will be stakeholder meetings in the process of making site development decisions; the concern project could have a building as tall as two stories, which would block view of the library from 54; restrictive covenants could be in place as long as there is a library, but other than zoning there are no planned restrictions at this time; the site approval process could take six months; and that 2A is the option the manager's office will recommend to the county commissioners at their working session on December 5. This portion of the meeting concluded at 8:40 p.m.

The board continued with its scheduled agenda.

**Approval of Minutes for meetings of August 15/September19, and October 19, 2005**

The minutes of the extended meeting of August 15/September19 are still in preparation.

Minutes of October 19 were approved.

**Financial Report (Priscilla):** There was no discussion of the report.

**Committee Reports**

Facilities and Standards (Elsa): In addition to arranging tonight's Freelon Group presentation, the committee will meet again 12/6 at 3:30 PM in the Library Board Room.

Policies (Jon): No report

Board Development and Evaluation: Lionell reported on progress on the December Library Family meeting.

Planning and Budget (Lionell): No report.

Information Services and Technology (Ken): Philip and Ken have discussed a brainstorming meeting of general staff, to be held in December, to discuss needs and desires in this realm, for both staff and end users. Ken raised, again, the issues of email access for board members and customers.

### **External Reports**

Durham Library Foundation: no report.

Jana reported the library has already met the Jan 2006 fund-matching challenge. The board expressed gratification for the fundraising success.

Friends of the Library (Elsa): the Friends recently won an award from North Carolina Friends of the Library!

### **Old Business**

Library Trustees Award Nominees: we don't have the documentation—we will hold off until the April staff day

AI asked about a patron's meeting, two months ago, with the board about her library fines; board has been assured by Philip that the library staff would work on the larger issues raised at that meeting.

### **New Business**

Elsa moved that we endorse option 2A; AI seconded the motion. Discussion centered on lack of involvement of board (and staff) the in process, the failure to consider a third option (corner of 54 and S. Alston), and fears about the future development of the remaining property, versus the feeling that the project needs to get underway and that we should we endorse the most likely proposal (2A). The motion failed. After other issues and concerns were discussed, it was moved, seconded and approved that Ken would draft a statement to go to the County Commissioners, summarizing the substance of the evening's debate and detailing issues and process that need to be dealt with as the project moves forward.

**Director's Report:** This was distributed at the meeting, but was not discussed.

**The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.**

**Next Meeting: December 19, 2005 @ 7:00 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Berger, Secretary