

Durham County Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, January 27, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Main Library Auditorium

I. Call to Order

Chair Michael Schoenfeld called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Henry Felder, Joe Hewitt, Allan Lang, Paolo Mangiafico, Dotty Reid, Joyce Sykes, Beck Tench Trustees;

Becky Heron, Board of County Commissioners Liaison

Tammy Baggett, Catherine Mau, Rheda Epstein, Gina Rozier; library staff.

Absent: Wendell Musser, Friends of the Durham Library Liaison

Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve: Mr. Lang. Second: Mr. Hewitt. Agenda approved unanimously.

Approval of November Minutes: Motion to defer the approval of the November minutes due to missing discussion of Bragtown and McDougald Terrace: Mr. Lang. Second: Mr. Hewitt. Ms Rozier will send revised minutes to Trustees for review and approval at the March 17 meeting. Ms. Rozier will send a hard copy to Commissioner Heron, care of Vera Alston in the County Manager's office.

II. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

III. Communications

A report was emailed to the trustees previously. Ms. Rozier passed out invitations to the Foundation's reception for Ms. Baggett.

IV. Announcements

- Mr. Schoenfeld read a thank you letter from Patrick Holt, 2011 Trustees Award recipient.
- Mr. Schoenfeld acknowledged Ms. Rozier for doing a good job with communications for the library.

V. Director's Report/ Budget Update (Ms. Baggett)

- I'm From Clinton, NC. I worked in Durham about 17 years ago, and I'm coming back now, coming home. I worked in New Hanover; Durham County, at Parkwood now South Regional; Forsyth; Atlanta (Fulton County); Charlotte-Mecklenburg. I returned to New Hanover County as assistant library director. I'm looking forward to working with all of you.
- Thank you Michael Schoenfeld and Allan Lang, and the Administrative Council for being so helpful. I have to say a special thank you to Priscilla Lewis.
- First 30-60 days: My focus is on getting to know staff and locations, meeting key people in Durham County and the Library Family. Next: meeting more folks in community.

- Over the next few months the focus will be about the budget. The library will submit a flat budget and one with cuts, but not sure what percentage of cuts. Any cuts will include justification for why those services should be kept.
- Goals for the Board of Trustees: advocacy, budget, strategic planning. Information will be forthcoming in months to come, and I will be seeking input from the Trustees.
- Questions?
- Mr. Lang: I know we needed to replace the generator at Main and resolve issues with the bookmobile. Any progress?
- Ms. Baggett: None yet.
- Mr. Schoenfeld: Why do we need a generator?
- Ms. Baggett: There is a problem with the power at the Main Library going out. The equipment is old, breakers, etc. There is a safety issue only because we need to clear the building when it happens. Power has not gone out for 2-3 weeks, so we're hoping what they did to repair it last time worked.
- Mr. Hewitt : What is the planning and timing for the renovation of Main?
- Ms. Baggett: It was slated to start in 2013. The latest update now is 2015-2018. We will look for ways to give Main a facelift. The perception of Main is not as positive as we would like, but some issues are just cosmetic. Ms. Mau will look at ways of merchandising etc. to improve it.
- Commissioner Heron: With the bookmobile, is there any possibility of closing libraries not being used as much? Maybe the Dearborn Rd. or the housing unit libraries, and have the bookmobile go there?
- Ms. Baggett: Numbers don't tell the whole story. There was a young boy who had used up his sessions on the computer at Bragtown. He asked the librarian for an extra session. She said no, but suggested he read a book. At her request, he read the book to her. Since then he has come back to the library and has increased his reading. We will look at the best way forward for those two libraries. Bragtown has a focus mainly on literacy. A lot of users walk to the library, and kids are there after school. But those libraries are being used.
- Commissioner Heron: I travel past Bragtown, and I don't see anyone coming or going.
- Ms. Baggett: They get foot traffic, not many cars. Their programs are well attended.
- Ms. Reid: We visited this once before. I'm glad your thoughts are on more than just the numbers. The inspiration factor is important, and in some cases people take the buses to get to the library.
- Commissioner Heron: I've read the minutes and discussions, but I want to take time to visit those libraries.
- Mr. Lang: For Bragtown and McDougald Terrace, can you investigate whether it is possible for the library to sponsor programs at local schools to get the community aware of the library?
- Ms. Baggett: This is already taking place.

VI. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

VII. New Business

- **Volunteers for Trustee liaison to the Foundation Board**
Joyce Sykes volunteered and was appointed.
- **Vacant Trustee seat**
The County advertised the vacancies with a deadline of Feb. 28. Mr. Schoenfeld asked Trustees to encourage people they know to apply.
Mr. Lang suggested that applications be distributed by March 1 so Trustees can review. Mr. Schoenfeld said applications will be sent as soon as they are received.
- **Vice Chair nominations**
Mr. Schoenfeld asked Mr. Hewitt to have the Nominating Committee begin working on this. Mr. Hewitt expressed that the committee is made up of only Ms. Sykes and himself, but they would work on preparing the nominations.
- **Recognition of departing members' service**
Two former members are deserving of recognition: Al Roberts and Elsa Woods.
Mr. Schoenfeld asked for suggestions from the Trustees and mentioned that it had been suggested in a prior meeting that books be purchased and donated to the library. Ms. Rozier mentioned that a resolution was a possibility. Mr. Lang and Mr. Hewitt agreed that a book purchase is a good idea and a standard practice for recognition.
- **Policies to be reviewed**
Some policies are up for review. Ms. Baggett had a suggestion on this:
Ms. Baggett: I would like staff to hold off on policies while I review them. Once reviewed, we will bring them forward.
Mr. Lang: Protocol says send them to the Policy Committee.
Mr. Schoenfeld: Right, after Ms. Baggett does her first review.
- **Formation of a Naming Committee**
There are four applications for facilities naming at various libraries. (Mr. Schoenfeld distributed the Naming Policy.) The process entails review by a committee made up of Trustees, Friends and Foundation members. I have been in contact with those chairs, and they are prepared to form committee.
- Mr. Lang and Mr. Felder volunteered to serve on the Naming Committee.
- Ms. Rozier will communicate this information to the Friends and Foundation to get committee going.
- Mr. Mangiafico: What facilities are up for naming?
- Mr. Schoenfeld: Dorothy Gier, for the North Regional Meeting room. Dr. Anton Schindler, for the South Regional Periodical Room. Frances Brinkley for the Southwest Regional Children's Program Room
- Ms. Rozier: These are donors of generous gifts.
- Mr. Schoenfeld: I will send the applications to anyone on the Board of Trustees who asks.
- Mr. Felder: Is there competition for naming rights?
- Mr. Schoenfeld: No. You don't have to choose who is better.
- Mr. Hewitt: In many libraries, there are prices on all their rooms.

- Mr. Schoenfeld: As we get closer to the redesign of Main, would the Trustees set up a price list?
- Ms. Rozier: The Foundation handles this.
- Mr. Schoenfeld: Perhaps a Foundation member could come speak about this at a future meeting.
- Mr. Mangiafico: I still have not been invited to serve on a committee.
- Mr. Schoenfeld: This is a good point. We need to revisit it. I will table this until the next meeting.
- Ms. Sykes: We need a new roster.
- Mr. Felder: I had a correction to the roster.
- Ms. Rozier: I will bring the updated roster to the next meeting.
- Ms. Baggett: A bi-weekly email about things happening at library will be forthcoming soon.
- Ms. Tench: We had a retreat this time last year. Will we do this again?
- Mr. Schoenfeld: Since this is Ms. Baggett's and my first meeting, let's put planning that on the agenda for next meeting. Ms. Baggett, please come up with an agenda of what a retreat might look like. We are interested in supporting the director's agenda, while still representing community. The agenda would be circulated to all of us.
- Mr. Lang: I would like to revisit the Bragtown and McDougald Terrace discussion. These two locations will come up again at the county level when discussing the budget. In preparation for this, I would suggest we create lengthy documentation of their activities, eg. school activities. I also suggest going to the chairperson at McDougald Terrace, Wisdom Pharaoh. We need to come to grips with the community activists at McDougald Terrace.
- Mr. Schoenfeld: Ms. Baggett has indicated that she will be reviewing this and will provide us with her ideas before the next board meeting.
- Ms. Baggett: Information on outreach efforts is available. It may not have been shared. In the future, printed director's reports will be provided.
- Mr. Hewitt: Two factors are often brought up: 1. The long-range plan in developing regionals as a trade off for not having to support neighborhood libraries. 2. Fear that if we allow two neighborhood libraries, we will have other neighborhoods popping up asking. Has this happened?
- Ms. Baggett: No. My guess is that more would want a regional.
- Commissioner Heron: This has been a concern of the commissioners with this budget crunch. Could the bookmobile serve that purpose? Everything we hear is that it is going to be tough. We will have to make the most of what we have and may have to give up a few things.
- Ms. Baggett: The bookmobile is serving a large population, and there would be some challenges in extending that.

VIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Mr. Lang. Second: Ms. Tench.
The meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

Next Meetings: **March 17, Main Library**
 May 17, East Regional Library