

Fayetteville Public Library
Board of Trustees Special Meeting
May 19, 2015, 3 pm, Walker Meeting Room
Minutes
Prepared by S. Daniel, Office Manager

Trustees present: K. Agee, S. Clark, M. Rice, J. Parry, S. Graham

Trustees absent: B. Boudreaux, H. Garner

Staff: D. Johnson, S. Davis, S. Foley, G. Beeks, B. Holt, J. Walker, S. Houk, G. Allen, L. Jernigan, M. Burdette, W. Fitzgibbon, H. Robideaux, J. Atha, S. Palmer, C. Walsh, A. Low, S. Daniel

Others: V. Chadick joined the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Public: Lorraine O'Neal

Press: D. Holtmeyer, J. Cumpston

- I. Call to order: K. Agee called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.
- II. Authorize K. Agee to sign agreement with Washington Regional regarding use of City Hospital property. V. Chadick (FPL counsel) and T. Olmstead (Washington Regional counsel) drafted a letter of agreement authorizing FPL to use the parking and lawn areas of City Hospital (not the building) if FPL pays the \$50,000 deductible on any insurance claim. To this end, the library will take out an insurance policy to cover such a deductible. **M. Rice moved to approve the agreement and the purchase of an insurance policy; J. Parry seconded. All voted AYE. Motion carried.** M. Rice noted the grounds are not well kept and the property is deteriorating.
- III. Discussion of Long-Term Revenue Committee Report: J. Parry stated the board had charged the committee with improving a financial situation that developed over time as demand for library services grew while revenues and staffing did not. The committee focused on both short and long-term solutions and evaluated 18 possibilities for increasing revenue/decreasing expenses. Over-riding themes:
 - a. The citizens of Fayetteville love their library and have high expectations for it.
 - b. FPL won't be able to meet all the public's demands without an increased millage and additional space.
 - c. Maintenance of Blair Library is paramount.

M. Rice noted FPL's current 1 mil was established by voter approval in the 1950s. Under the constitution, up to 5 mils may be dedicated to library funding.

D. Johnson drew attention to attachment 1 which details the cuts already made – cuts selected to have the least impact on the community. J. Parry noted these cuts represent the last round of cuts that can be made without impacting the public.

S. Clark was cautious about the possibility of a hiring freeze and suggested a case-by-case determination rather than a blanket approach.

D. Johnson clarified Table C, Item 10 (Restrict Long-Term Reserve to capital replacement/supplement from savings) explaining the idea is to stop drawing money from the Reserve for the annual budget and, instead, withdraw money only as necessary and only for maintenance of major items. The Long-Term Reserve would be “locked down” and unavailable for any other purpose. Historically, this fund has been continually drawn down and not replenished – an unsustainable practice that would drain the Reserve by 2020.

The proposal to charge more for meeting space would apply only to the Ann Henry Board Room and the Walker Meeting Room, not to the study rooms. Most Walker Room use is by the library for its own programs. Commercial companies expect to pay \$400-\$500 to rent comparable space for a half day.

Millage increase refers to anticipated growth based on information from the assessor's office.

The Long-Term Revenue Committee recommends an increase to \$0.25/day/item which is commensurate with area and peer libraries. It also recommends a policy change that would require patrons to pay down all their fees/fines before checking out any more items.

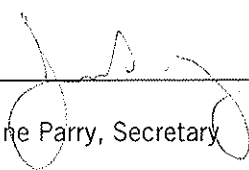
The proposal to reduce the number of DVDs that may be checked out at one time is an effort to reduce losses due to theft.

Reinvest the \$2 million set aside to purchase City Hospital. Had the money remained invested, earnings would have been \$600,000 – hindsight being what it is. At this point, plans are to reinvest the money in short term vehicles. Because the Foundation exists to help the library, M. Rice suggested the library ask the Foundation to increase its annual transfers to ease budget shortfalls.

Charging for admittance to author receptions while retaining a public presentation that is free to all is practiced by many nonprofit organizations as a way to make money, or at least cover costs. As a library, the culture is not to charge for anything, and there is sensitivity to the reaction from the library's large financial supporters.

The Board is expected to make decisions on the options presented by the Long-Term Revenue Committee at its next meeting on June 15. There may be a need for another special meeting to discuss future plans, which could include appointing another committee to specifically address planning for a millage campaign. Public input is essential. In conclusion, FPL is planning for future needs responsibly; it is not "broke."

- IV. Public comment: Lorraine O'Neal suggested FPL's custodial efforts are too intensive. She supported charging for library cards, surveying library users, and instituting a charge for library programs. She questioned if staff time is impacted by the increased demand for library services.
- V. Adjournment: **J. Parry moved to adjourn; S. Clark seconded. All voted AYE.** Meeting adjourned at 4:18 pm.



Janine Parry, Secretary

8/17/15

Date