

TAMPA-HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD
ROBERT W. SAUNDERS, SR. PUBLIC LIBRARY
JANUARY 24, 2008

Board Members Present: Chair, James Martin, Bob Argus, Patrick DeMarco, James Harkins, Alma Hires, Jim Johnson, Dora Reeder, William Scheuerle, Christopher Rosbough, Laura Vickers. Margaret Fisher and Kay O'Rourke were excused.

Staff Present: Joe Stines, Director of Library Services; Marcee Challener, Manager, Materials and Circulation Services; David Wullschleger, Manager, Operations; Suzy George, Manager, Capital Projects; Jacquelyn Zebos, Manager, Administrative and Reference Services; Ricardo Cox, Assistant County Attorney; Aracelis Putnam, Administrative Specialist; Sheryl Herold, Accountant; Jean Peters, Chief Librarian; Andrew Breidenbaugh, Chief Librarian; Susan Oliver, Chief Librarian.

Mr. Martin called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

The Board reviewed minutes from the Library Board meeting of December 6, 2007. The Board approved the minutes as amended.

Chair, James Martin, thanked the members of the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Library for providing refreshments for the Library Board meeting.

Presentations from the Public:

Howard Harris, President of the Ada T. Payne Friends of the Urban Libraries addressed the Board in support of creating a walkway between Saunders Library and Booker T. Washington School. He urged the Library Board not to cut funding for Saunders Library and to consider reopening Saunders Library on Fridays.

Susan Long, President of Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association requested that Seminole Heights Library be renamed the Steven J. Gluckman Memorial Library.

Fred Hearn, President of the Robert W. Saunders Foundation stated that the main function of the Foundation is to promote the building of a new library. He urged the Board to make Robert W. Saunders Library a priority.

Susan Elbare, representing Booker T. Washington Elementary School, encouraged the Board to consider a partnership with the school as the library has been a very large part of the neighborhood.

Randy Baron, representing Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association, expressed his support of renaming Seminole Heights Library in honor of Mr. Steven J. Gluckman.

Jason Pepe, Principal, Booker T. Washington Elementary School invited the Library Board to tour the school and meet its students, families, and teachers. He asked that the Board give the

walkway consideration and rank it higher on its priority list. Mr. Stines asked Mr. Pepe whether he felt he had the support from middle management of the School Board to build something on a temporary basis while awaiting a permanent solution for a school/library partnership. Mr. Pepe indicated that he did have full support from School Board management.

Jeff Harmon, Vice President, Old Seminole Heights Neighborhood Association reaffirmed support for renaming the Seminole Heights Library in honor of Steven J. Gluckman. He added that the library is a very important symbol of the Seminole Heights neighborhood.

Mr. Martin informed the Board that 21 e-mails were received in support of renaming Seminole Heights Library. Mr. Stines advised the Library Board that renaming the building was not within the Board's scope of authority. However, the Library Board is charged with exploring the request and making a recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Martin offered a motion that library staff work with the Planning Committee on a feasibility analysis of building a walkway from Booker T. Washington Elementary to the Robert W. Saunders Public Library. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Board accepted the motion unanimously.

Committee Reports

Budget Committee: Chair, William Scheuerle reported that the Committee was still working on the FY09 proposed budget. If the proposed amendment passes on January 29, 2008, the Library System will lose approximately \$3.5 million. The Committee has identified approximately \$2.4 million in budget reductions by keeping frozen 18 vacant positions and cutting \$500,000 from the book budget and approximately \$250,000 from the maintenance budget and by closing both regional and non-regional libraries on Fridays thereby eliminating a shift. (This is an option but not yet a recommendation.) The Budget Committee is still waiting for indirect cost figures and does not have a firm figure for reserves. Reserve funds consist of available funds and funds designated for future projects. It is not known how much is going into reserves from the previous fiscal year. If we go to further alternatives without taking reserves into consideration, it would mean cutting hours at regional libraries on Mondays except for John F. Germany Library. It is the consensus of the Budget Committee that additional money not be taken from the book budget. Mr. Stines stated the key to the approach is cutting shifts of hours instead of closing small libraries. Staff from Management & Budget Department will attend the Budget Committee in February to address the Committee about the amount of reserves and to answer questions. Director, Eric Johnson, has requested another study by the consultants to update the indirect figures. Management & Budget staff are working on the Library Pro Forma and expect to have it completed by late February. The next meeting of the Budget Committee is February 19, 2008, 2:00 p.m. at John F. Germany Public Library.

Planning Committee: Chair, Bob Argus reported that following a review of the Master Plan, the Committee decided to recommend to the Board the following changes to the planning zones: Move Temple Terrace into Mid-Tampa and move Plant City into East Rural and reclassify it East Rural/Plant City Urban Region. **Mr. Argus made a motion to modify the planning zones**

by moving Temple Terrace Library into the Mid Tampa region and Plant City into the East Rural region and rename the East Rural region the “East Rural/Plant City Urban Region.” Mr. Stines stated that footnotes would be added explaining the difference between urban and rural county regions. Mr. Harkins seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to carry the motion.

Mr. Argus further reported that the Planning Committee came up with a ranking of unfunded projects. What they looked at was if they were to build or expand, not only are there capital costs but also operation costs. With the recent decline in property values in the area, this was seen as an opportunity to acquire land for future. The Committee submitted land acquisition for future projects as its first priority. The following is a draft list of recommended priorities submitted for the Board’s approval.

- 1) Land Acquisition for future libraries expansion/construction
 - a) Seminole Heights
 - b) Carrollwood
 - c) Fishhawk
 - d) South Rural – Wimauma
- 2) Sulphur Springs (partnership)
- 3) Bloomingdale Regional expansion
- 4) Jimmie B. Keel Regional expansion
- 5) Seminole Heights expansion
- 6) University area library
- 7) Saunders expansion
- 8) Upper Tampa Bay Regional expansion
- 9) Riverview expansion
- 10) Turkey Creek
- 11) Fishhawk area library
- 12) New Tampa Regional expansion
- 13) Carrollwood area library
- 14) Wimauma area library

The Board began discussion of the recommended priorities. A proposed Saunders walkway could be ranked and the unfunded capital list could be amended. Also, a library partnership with Booker T. Washington could be worked out separately from the unfunded capital list. Dr. Scheuerle observed that, although New Tampa Regional Library (NTR) has shown a decline in circulation figures for November and December, 2007, it remains the second most frequently used library. He questioned whether its expansion should be less worthy than a new library in FishHawk or even Turkey Creek. It was noted that 17% of NTR’s use is from Pasco County. Ms. Vickers further pointed out that NTR is in an area with the greatest library square footage per capita. Dr. Scheuerle believes that expansion of a library should be more important than a new library. Mr. DeMarco agreed and reasoned that the guiding principles specify that expansion of present libraries takes precedence over creation of new libraries. Therefore, Dr. Scheuerle suggested New Tampa be moved up on the priority list from number 12 to number 10. The Board asked for the percentage of circulation from Pasco County at the Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library. Ms. Challenger will bring the information to the next board meeting. Dr.

Scheuerle requested a written rationale for why NTR is in the middle of new libraries. Mr. Harkins followed with a motion to accept the list and move New Tampa to position 10. Mr. Argus seconded with an amendment that the Saunders walkway be placed ahead of the number one priority because it is a partnership, is relatively inexpensive, and would be beneficial for the area. Mr. Harkins amended his motion to revisit the list of priorities once staff obtains cost projections for construction of the walkway. Mr. Harkins was asked to restate his motion. Mr. Harkins reiterated that the Board “accepts the [unfunded capital] list with the following changes: to move the New Tampa Library expansion to position 10 and drop Turkey Creek, Fishhawk, Carrollwood, and Wimauma down one with the caveat to revisit the list when staff has a cost for the walkway between Booker T. Washington and Saunders.” **The Board voted unanimously to approve the unfunded capital list for FY09 as amended:**

1. **Land Acquisition for future projects**
 - a. **Seminole Heights**
 - b. **Carrollwood area**
 - c. **FishHawk area**
 - d. **Wimauma area**
2. **Sulphur Springs Partnership Library**
3. **Bloomington Regional Library expansion**
4. **Jimmie B. Keel Regional Library expansion**
5. **Seminole Heights Replacement library**
6. **University Area Partnership Library**
7. **Saunders Library Expansion**
8. **Upper Tampa Bay Regional Library expansion**
9. **Riverview Library expansion**
10. **New Tampa Regional Library expansion**
11. **Turkey Creek Partnership Library**
12. **FishHawk Area Library**
13. **Carrollwood Area Library**
14. **Wimauma Area Library**

The next meeting of the Planning Committee is scheduled for 3:00 p.m. on February 19, 2008 at John F. Germany Public Library. Mike Kelly, Director, Real Estate Department, will be invited to attend to discuss land acquisition.

Policy and Bylaws Committee: Chair, Alma Hires stated that the Committee reviewed two policies LS1108, Weblogs and LS1109, Library Art Gallery Displays. The Committee is recommending to the Library Board that both policies be approved. Mr. Harkins seconded. **The Board voted unanimously to approve library policies and procedures, LS1108, Weblogs, and LS1109, Library Art Gallery Displays.** The next meeting of the Policy & Bylaws Committee is scheduled for February 28 at 3:00 p.m. at JFG.

Unfinished Business: Mr. Martin related to the Board that a response was received from the County Administrator to his letter on the Board’s behalf concerning the Town ’N Country library groundbreaking.

New Business: None

Director's Report: Mr. Stines asked Ms. George to update the Board on library projects. Town 'N Country interior color selection will be brought to the community during February. North Tampa construction is out to bid and should close February 1st. We expect to break ground as early as May. Seffner-Mango is moving well, and the goal is to have construction completed by December of 2008. Replacement of the John F. Germany Library ceilings, lighting and sprinklers on the fourth floor of the east building as well as new roofing for both east and west buildings is being planned with the Real Estate Department.

Ms. Vickers inquired about groundbreaking ceremonies for Seffner-Mango and North Tampa new libraries. **It was suggested that the Board make a motion to direct the Chairman to send a letter to the County Administrator thanking her for her response and expressing the Board's desire to see work beginning on both projects. Ms. Vickers made the motion and the Board was in agreement.**

Mr. Stines reported that a stakeholders meeting has been scheduled for the Imagination Library at which corporate and service groups will be updated on the program and asked for input on ways to improve the program. Mr. Argus will be in attendance representing the Library Board. A press conference will also be held on February 26, 2008 to promote the county-wide kick off of the Imagination Library.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:

- **Budget** - Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – 2:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library
- **Planning** – Tuesday, February 19, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library
- **Policy & Bylaws** - Thursday, February 28, 2008 – 3:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library
- **Library Board** – Thursday, February 28, 2008 - 4:00 p.m. at the John F. Germany Public Library