



City of Madison
Meeting Minutes - Final
MADISON PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Thursday, September 1, 2005

4:30 PM

Madison Public Library
201 W. Mifflin St., Rm. 201

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, Ann L. Falconer and David L. Wallner

Absent: William C. Keys and Gregory Markle

Excused: Barbara J. Karlen and Theodore C. Widder, III

Also Present: Sawyer, Dimick, J. Olson, Froistad, Benno, Chase, Young

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The August 10, 2005 Minutes were approved.

A motion was made by Taft, Jr., seconded by Ald. Palm, to Approve the Minutes. The motion passed by acclamation.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

Senator Feingold's response to our concerns about the Patriot Act was enclosed in the board packet.

MPL received certificates of appreciation for participating in the Urban League's "Reach" program, which employed diverse youth in the summer.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were none.

V. BOARD INFORMATION EXCHANGE

The 2006 Board meeting schedule was included in the packet. There was a request to change the location of the April meeting.

Mr. Widder arrived at 4:36 p.m.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, Ann L. Falconer, David L. Wallner and Theodore C. Widder, III

Absent: William C. Keys and Gregory Markle

Excused: Barbara J. Karlen

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT

The debt retirement is higher in 2005 because we had more projects and also because the library was included in the city borrowing to cover the pension debt.

Ms. Dimick has received no word on the status of the library's requests for the 2006 operating budget. The mayor is holding workshops for the public on the city budget, one at Alicia Ashman.

Questions were raised about the advisability of requesting capital money for new or remodeled branches when we may not have enough money in 2006 to maintain the current branch hours and staffs. New branches require staff that translates into a much higher salary budget. Staff and the Library Board are planning prudently for the future. If the money is not available, the plans for the future will have to be altered. It was noted that there would be little impact on the operating budget for staff for the Sequoya expansion project as staffing would remain near the current level. Ms. Dimick will provide the staff FTE figures over the last several years at the next meeting.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Hernandez moved, seconded by Falconer, renomination of the current slate of officers: President, Tripp Widder; Vice-President, David Wallner; and Secretary/Treasurer, Larry Palm. Motion passed by acclamation.

VIII. DANE COUNTY LIBRARY TAX EXEMPTION

[01858](#)

A resolution regarding application to the Dane County Board for exemption from Dane County Library tax levied under Section 43.64(2) Wisconsin Statutes.

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Falconer, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF ESTIMATES. The motion passed by acclamation.

Enactment No: RES-05-00747

XV. REVISION TO 2006 CAPITAL BUDGET - CLOSED SESSION

When the Library Board considers Item XV, it may go into closed session pursuant to Section 19.85 (1)(e), Wisconsin Statutes, which reads as follows: "Deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or conducting other specified business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require a closed session."

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Palm, to convene into Closed Session. The motion passed by acclamation.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, Ann L. Falconer, David L. Wallner and Theodore C. Widder, III

Absent: William C. Keys and Gregory Markle

Excused: Barbara J. Karlen

RECONVENE INTO OPEN SESSION

A motion was made by Wallner, seconded by Ald. Palm, to Reconvene. The motion passed by acclamation.

Widder left the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

Present: Ald. Larry Palm, John A. Taft, Jr., Ramon R. Hernandez, Ann L. Falconer and David L. Wallner

Absent: William C. Keys and Gregory Markle

Excused: Barbara J. Karlen and Theodore C. Widder, III

IX. FRIENDS' UPDATE

There was no report.

X. FOUNDATION UPDATE

Work is continuing on the October 9 auction event for the Sequoya Branch Library. Pam Tauscher will emcee, Jessica Doyle will act as honorary chair, and David Maraniss will be the guest speaker. Invitations will be mailed right after Labor Day.

Another round of wills/trusts seminars is scheduled for the Ashman Branch in September.

XI. SOUTH CENTRAL LIBRARY SYSTEM UPDATE

Jack Taft and Barb Dimick are members of a planning committee charged with updating the South Central Library System strategic plan. A national search will be conducted to replace retiring Director Peter Hamon. The System Celebration dinner will be held at Morel's Restaurant.

XII. DANE COUNTY LIBRARY SERVICE UPDATE

Julie Chase, Dane County Library Service Director, and Rebecca Young, a Dane County Library Board member, were present to discuss challenges the Dane County Library Service will face.

As more communities in Dane County build their own libraries, DCLS will cover less geographic space and the tax base will shrink. Elected officials are more concerned with reducing taxes than in providing services; they want to get "more for their money". As a result, DCLS will continue to struggle with budget cuts.

The Dane County Library Board has met with municipal library boards to begin the discussion about what alternatives might be available. Other areas of the state facing the same constraints are Waukesha and Milwaukee. The County Board started with the question of what the role of the County is in providing the funding for library service.

Librarians in Dane County put together a futures committee and they produced a document outlining various options. All library boards in the county were then to discuss the options at their respective board meetings. The next step would be to get the members of all the library board together to talk about the options, issues, and values of library service. This joint meeting is scheduled for September 29 at the Fitchburg Community Center, a community that currently does not have a library.

Ironically, if the proposed Fitchburg library becomes a reality, 18% of the County's tax base will be lost. Things may really start to fall apart for DCLS at that time. Fitchburg is preparing to pick a site and will then bring it to referendum for public funding. The city council is keeping neutral and hasn't included any money for it in the 2006 budget. We need to look at more advantageous ways to deliver library services in Dane County.

The consulting firm of Himmel and Wilson out of Middleton has been hired to study the alternatives. They will attend the All Board meeting and are expected to begin work on the study October 1. The process will take 9-10 months. DCLS has applied for a federal grant to pay for the study.

XIII. FACILITIES UPDATE

The Meadowridge capital project is nearly finished. This includes improved lighting, changing the book drop and moving things around.

XIV. COMMITTEE UPDATES

There were no reports.

XVI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

A motion was made by Falconer, seconded by Falconer, to Adjourn. The motion passed by acclamation.