

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A City with a Great Library is a Great City ®

LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

June 20, 2017

12:00 p.m.

Green Hills Branch Library, 3701 Benham Ave, Nashville, TN 37215

Members Present: Keith Simmons, Lucy Haynes, Robert Oermann, Joyce Searcy, Katy Varney and Francie Hunt

Members Absent: Sepi Khansari

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Elyse Adler, Felicia Wilson, Andrea Fanta, Terri Thomas and Beth Deeb

Also Present: Mark Murray, Metro Department of Law attorney

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Keith Simmons called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings

“Pursuant to the provisions of § 2.68.030 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws, please take notice that decisions of the Nashville Public Library Board may be appealed to the Chancery Court of Davidson County for review under a common law writ of certiorari. Any appeal must be filed within sixty days after entry of a final decision by the Board. Any person or other entity considering an appeal should consult with an attorney to ensure that time and procedural requirements are met.”

III. Approval of Minutes: May 16, 2017

Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes from the May meeting; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.

IV. Library Director Report—Kent Oliver, Library Director

- a. The data for FY1617 is looking good; full fiscal year numbers will be reported at next month’s Board meeting, after the year-end.

V. Staff Reports

- a. *Budget Update—Kent Oliver*

The Council will be approving the budget tonight; the capital spending plan has already been approved. The Library does not anticipate getting additional money for materials funding through the 4% budget, but we have some funds that we can carry over from this fiscal year. We are aiming for \$3 million per year for materials funding, but thus far have not been able to reach that goal.

The Council tabled a resolution to give 35 spots in the library lot to a private company; Mr. Oliver is still talking to Rich Riebeling about getting more spots for library staff. There will be 368 new spaces once the renovation is complete.

b. *Library of the Year—Kent Oliver*

NPL won the 2017 Gale/*Library Journal* Library of the Year award, after being an honorable mention two years ago (when the Ferguson Public Library won). The award includes a \$10,000 prize, which will go to NPLF. Andrea Fanta was the lead on this project, and submitted a 41-page document. There was a social media blitz as well as a *Tennessean* story. Twenty NPL staff will be attending the awards ceremony in Chicago this weekend as part of ALA. We are also planning a party for all staff in early August.

We are working on a Library of the Year marketing plan including banners, billboards, State/local proclamations, etc. Mr. Oliver appeared on WSM, and there will also be an NPR story (local, possibly national). This year's submission did not differ drastically from when we received honorable mention, although there was a greater focus on our literacy and civil rights programming, as well as a section on our Nashville Reads with John Lewis. Mr. Simmons thanked Ms. Fanta and the entire library staff on behalf of the Board. He also wondered how many libraries had won both the IMLS award and the Library of the Year award.

VI. New Business

a. *Strategic Plan—Cissy Mynatt*

Ms. Mynatt explained that the current strategic plan committee includes a lot of front-line staff and middle managers, who have been working on the plan for about six months. Input on the plan was also gathered at this spring's Staff Day. She presented a Powerpoint about the process and where we are now. The planning encompassed four key questions:

1. What is our current position?
2. What is our vision of success?
3. How will we achieve our vision?
4. How do we track and communicate our progress?

These questions will be addressed by "the Balanced Scorecard," a framework to help organizations translate strategy into operational objectives that drive performance. Ms. Mynatt showed an example of a scorecard, which includes the strategy, how success in achieving the strategy will be tracked, the target goals, and the key actions required to achieve those goals. She then showed the draft NPL Strategy Map, and explained that each strategy will have its own scorecard. This allows greater flexibility than our last strategic plan, because the targets can be changed/re-prioritized from year to year. She also noted that when finalized, the Strategy Map will be translated into an infographic that anyone can use to visually explain the Library's plan.

Mr. Oermann observed that branding NPL as a valued community resource is probably our greatest weakness, since many Nashvillians still are not aware of all the programs and services that we offer. Ms. Varney suggested that we advertise through the Nashville Convention and Visitors Corporation and ask to be included in the Nashville Chamber's educational report card, and Mr. Oliver noted that we had just presented our educational services to the Chamber yesterday.

Ms. Varney also wondered how we are going to balance building new facilities with increasing our outreach activities, since there is a finite amount of funding. Mr. Oliver noted that patrons want both, but reminded the Board that most of our outreach is funded through NPLF, and that funding may decrease this year.

The Board brainstormed two additional ways to increase access: Ms. Varney suggested a “Food for Thought” bookmobile that would follow local food trucks, and Ms. Haynes suggested having holds delivered directly to patrons’ homes. Mr. Oliver asked the Board to please give him any other input on the plan. After the strategic plan committee refines the wording on the Strategy Map, the Board may also be asked to help develop the scorecards for each strategy.

VII. Other Business

a. *Country Music Hall of Fame Community Counts Passport—Elyse Adler*

Ms. Adler reported that on July 6, the Hall will be making a major public announcement that all Davidson County students under 18 will now receive free admission, and that the Library will have Passports available for checkout that offer free admission for two Davidson County adults. We plan to use this program as a pilot for similar potential programs with the Frist, Cheekwood, and other cultural institutions in the city.

b. *ILS Conversion—Kent Oliver*

Mr. Oliver reminded the Board that the Library will be closed July 2-4 for the conversion to the joint ILS with Metro Schools. This system will look different to staff, but the patron interface will remain the same.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Next Board Meeting—

12:00 p.m., July 18, 2017

Green Hills Branch Library

3701 Benham Ave, Nashville, TN 37215

Respectfully submitted by Beth Deeb