

**NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY**  
A City with a Great Library is a Great City®

**LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES**

**September 18, 2018**

**10:30 a.m.**

**Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219**

**Members Present:** Keith Simmons, Robert Oermann, Joyce Searcy, Katy Varney, Lucy Haynes

**Members Absent:** Sepi Khansari

**Library Staff:** Kent Oliver, Larry Price, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Elyse Adler, Andrea Fanta, Shawn Bakker, Mary Brenna Corr, Andrea Blackman, Lisa Bubert, and Joanna Roberts

**Also Present:** Carly Elliott, Metro Department of Law attorney  
Margaret L. Behm, Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella attorney  
Jeanie Nelson, Land Trust for Tennessee founder  
Juli Mosley  
Kem Hinton, Tuck Hinton Architects founding partner/principal  
Hannah Gompers, Tuck Hinton Architects associate  
Will Krugman, McNeely Pigott & Fox account executive

**I. Call to Order / Roll Call**

Keith Simmons called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.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: July 17, 2018**

Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes from the July meeting; the motion was seconded by Lucy Haynes and passed unanimously.

**IV. Board Chair Comments – Keith Simmons, Chair**

- a. The results of the most recent Metro Resident Survey show that NPL has the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest satisfaction rating of all major Metro services.

- b. Automatic renewal of library materials has garnered a lot of positive responses. Mr. Oliver noted that auto-renewal not only takes care of items in overdue status, it also has a positive effect on circulation statistics.
- c. Mr. Simmons asked for an update on the new Donelson Branch. Mr. Oliver explained that the first allocation of funds were expended for the purchase of the site and for infrastructure costs, such as rerouting a road. The defeat of the tiff means that there will need to be more of the capital budget to cover construction and infrastructure costs. Community meetings have already begun and will continue next week.
- d. Mr. Oermann asked about the plans for the Church Street Park property. Mr. Oliver noted that nothing new is going before Metro Council this month. The Library Board will discuss the study session on October 8.

**V. Library Director Report – *Kent Oliver, Library Director***

- a. Mr. Oliver announced good news on the staffing front. The library has received approval to fill thirteen positions beginning October 8. If a staff member is hired for one of those positions, the library will be allowed to back-fill their vacated position. There are currently forty vacant positions, and NPL is still required to meet the budget savings goal. All Madison Branch staff will return to their branch by November.
- b. A new Library Board member, Adriana Bialostozky, will be presented for appointment to replace Gini Pupo-Walker. Mr. Oliver will schedule an orientation meeting with her and send information to the Library Board as it becomes available.
- c. The Courtyard Concert today features Riders in the Sky. The performance will begin directly after the Board meeting.

**VI. Staff Reports**

- a. Votes for Women Project Update – *Kent Oliver*
  - i. Mr. Oliver indicated that the recommendation is to name the new the Votes for Women Room. The Room will be dedicated to women’s rights and suffrage. It will also highlight Nashville’s role in the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. The space will include exhibits and programs similar to the Civil Rights Room. This will be a great addition to the library’s programming and fit perfectly with our mission.
  - ii. Mr. Oliver, Andrea Blackman, Rachel Lawson, Elaine Weiss, Margaret Behm, Jeanie Nelson and Juli Mosley developed the one-pager included in the Library Board packet. Mr. Oliver thanked them and Shawn Bakker, Joyce Searcy, Lucy Haynes, Susan Drye and Jena Schmid for their involvement in this project.
  - iii. The Votes for Women Room will be constructed in the space currently occupied by the Banner Room. The Banner collection will be moved to the microfilm room. Some materials will be interfiled throughout Special Collections, and this will be a good opportunity to reexamine the organization of the collection. The plan is to relocate The Writers’ Rooms to the third

floor. Kem Hinton of Tuck Hinton Architects shared this anticipated design timeline:

- a. September – December 2018: Create designs
  - b. January – March 2019: Finish drawings
  - c. April 2019: Begin renovations
- iv. Ms. Varney recommended that the project follow certain Metro procedures such as submitting RFI's and utilizing Metro approved contractors and vendors. Funding will come through NPLF, which does not require the use of Metro vendors, but having a transparent process and using known contractors are both positives.
  - v. Mr. Simmons asked if this project will be paid for through NPLF. Mr. Oliver confirmed that NPLF will make all payments. The total budget for the Votes for Women Room is projected at 3 million dollars. Susan Drye is working with CPS and Gobble Hayes to refine the numbers. Ms. Searcy noted that efforts will be made to hire women for this project.
  - vi. Ms. Nelson thanked Bill and Robin King for their support of the Civil Rights Room. The civil rights exhibits and programming have helped stakeholders visualize the potential for the Votes for Women Room. The expected completion of the Room in February 2020 will be very timely, as August 2020 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. Ms. Nelson thanked Andrea Blackman for bringing the Civil Rights Room to life. Hannah Gompers was thanked for her design work.
  - vii. Mr. Oermann noted that the LeQuire sculpture in Centennial Park would be a nice centerpiece for the Votes for Women Room.
  - viii. Ms. Behm mentioned that *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss, a source of research for the project, has been optioned for film by Steven Spielberg.

Mr. Simmons moved for resolution to endorse the Votes for Women project; the motion was seconded by Ms. Haynes and passed unanimously.

**Votes for Women Project-**  
**The Legacy of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment**  
**Nashville Public Library Board Meeting**  
**September 18, 2018**

**Location.** In its May 15, 2018, meeting, the Board approved the exploration of constructing a Room, similar to the Civil Rights Room, which tells the story of Nashville’s role in granting women the right to vote. The proposed location of the Room is the current Banner Room and adjacent space, located in the Nashville Room at the opposite end from the Civil Rights Room. The writers’ rooms will be relocated within the Main Library. The Banner collection will be moved to a more vibrant space in the microfilm room.

**Mission and Objectives.** The following mission and objectives for the Room are proposed.

*To provide a permanent space that tells the pivotal and dramatic story of Nashville’s role in granting women the right to vote with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and to provide a space to explore the core themes surrounding women’s roles, democracy and power.*

This Mission is accomplished in three major ways:

- *A permanent exhibit which is self-guided and serves as a destination place for visitors.*
- *Programming focused on civic engagement and women’s roles.*
- *Collection and assembly of information that pertains to the involvement of Nashville and beyond in this movement and of books, women’s stories, including oral histories, and other documents and records with a focus on women’s contributions.*

**Permanent Exhibit.** This space will be dedicated to engaging communities in conversations about current issues of equality, women’s role in society, democracy and the right to vote. The elements and design of the space will convey Nashville’s complicated history and will have a centerpiece, much like the replica of the lunch counter in the Civil Rights Room. When one considers the place and space, it is particularly meaningful that the Room overlooks where the fight for the vote was waged at the Hermitage Hotel and the State Capitol.

**Programs.** Programming will build upon the library’s current outstanding programs presented in conjunction with the Special Collections Division. Programs will involve the core themes of American and Tennessee history—race, class, money, gender, states’ rights, power and democracy—all which came into play in Nashville. An important focus will be the role of women in our society, particularly Nashville, and the importance of the right to vote. Exploring these themes will utilize multiple methods of engagement: public programs centered in both historical truths and social commentary; and author and scholar-led events that are steeped in counter narratives and critical dialogue. Management and planning will be coordinated by the Special Collections Division that will involve library programmers, curriculum designers, artists, and educators to design connecting content for K-12, higher education and community groups.

**Collections.** In carrying out the objectives of the exhibit and programming, the library will immediately begin its collection development phase of the project. An extensive book list of current and former writers will be considered for circulation throughout the system as well. Materials already available in the library will be compiled and organized with the new materials and incorporated in the Room. Additionally, the library will collect women’s stories, similar to other library projects, for such stories are often not told, collected or given appropriate recognition. This space will allow more people to have much more input into how to create and tell women’s histories.

- b. PR Campaign – *Andrea Fanta, Mary Brenna Corr and Will Krugman*
  - i. Ms. Fanta explained that Libraries Transform is a joint campaign between NPL and NPLF. It is based on a theme developed by the American Library Association. Ms. Corr noted that this will be a cohesive message that supports the mission of both organizations.
  - ii. Mr. Krugman shared the overall concept that McNeely Pigott and Fox Communications (MP&F) has provided pro bono help to develop. The new joint branding campaign will last for approximately one year and consist of statements that begin with the phrase, “Libraries transform because.” The launch will take place in early October with social media posts, email marketing, and initial media outreach. Campaign images will have a consistent look and touch on various subjects such as childhood literacy. The goals of the campaign are to inspire Nashvillians to go to the library, get a library card, and give to the NPLF.
  - iii. Ms. Varney asked Mr. Krugman if the campaign will include the phrase, “A city with a great library is a great city.” Mr. Krugman replied that there will be 24 advertisements created for the campaign, and they will all begin with “Libraries transform because.”
  - iv. Shawn Bakker noted that MP&F has been instrumental in combining NPL and NPLF’s objectives for Libraries Transform. Campaign ambassadors may be utilized to help raise awareness as well.
- c. Summer Challenge Summary – *Lisa Bubert*
  - i. Mr. Oliver commended Ms. Bubert’s work on the Summer Reading Challenge. Ms. Bubert highlighted three main successes of the program:
    - 1. Almost 12 million minutes of reading were logged city-wide, which exceeded the goal of 10 million minutes.
    - 2. Adult and teen participation rates were higher than last year.
    - 3. MNPS was very invested in the program and promoted it at all levels.
  - ii. Ms. Bubert noted that the Green Hills Branch had the highest number of registrants, and the Edmondson Pike Branch had the highest number of completions. There was also a significant increase in participation at the smaller branch libraries, such as Hadley Park and Looby. Patrons’ social media posts and other comments have been overwhelmingly positive.
  - iii. Mr. Simmons was glad to hear positive feedback about the Summer Reading Challenge in addition to the positive Metro Resident Survey results. This library system is accomplishing great things!
  - iv. Mr. Oliver noted that the next Library Board meeting will take place at the Richland Park Branch Library.

## **VII. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

***Next Board Meeting –  
12:00 p.m., October 16, 2018***  
Richland Park Branch Library – Meeting Room  
4711 Charlotte Avenue  
Nashville TN 37209

*Respectfully submitted by Joanna Roberts*