

NASHVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

A City with a Great Library is a Great City ®

LIBRARY BOARD MINUTES

September 19, 2017

12:00 p.m.

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

Members Present: Keith Simmons, Lucy Haynes, Joyce Searcy, and Katy Varney

Members Absent: Robert Oermann, Francie Hunt, and Sepi Khansari

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Susan Drye, Jena Schmid, Elyse Adler, Felicia Wilson, Larry Price, Andrea Fanta, Heidi Berg, Liz Atack, Bernadette Hukan, Terri Thomas, John McFarland, Candice Jackson, and Beth Deeb

Also Present: Carly Elliott, Metro Department of Law attorney
Mark Naccarato, SEIU representative
Tori Ross, recently retired Children's Librarian

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

Keith Simmons called the meeting to order at 12:03 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: August 15, 2017

Joyce Searcy moved for approval of the minutes from the August meeting; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.

IV. Library Director Report—*Kent Oliver, Library Director*

- Mr. Oliver introduced Tori Ross to the Board. Ms. Ross retired on September 1 after working for the library since 1978, mainly as the Children's Librarian at Southeast and Edmondson Pike. Ms. Ross has an encyclopedic knowledge of children's literature and offered an array of amazing programs, including the READING Paws program and the first bilingual story time program at Nashville Public Library. She worked with the schools in her area to provide regular outreach and reading readiness programs for children and parent groups, keeping the library connected to the community. She was chosen to serve on the Frist Center for the Visual Arts' Community Marketing and Outreach Council, and also worked with WNPT to ensure NPL became one of the first 20 libraries in the country to have a PBS Library Corner. In 2015 Tori received the Daniel Taylor Memorial Award presented by the Tennessee Library Association.
- There are two upcoming Library of the Year events: the Metro Council resolution of recognition for NPL tonight at 6:30, and the Mayor's declaration of NPL Day on September

28. We have also created Library of the Year library cards, and are offering them to existing cardholders the first two months without charging the \$1 card replacement fee.

- There will be a reception at Richland Park on October 17 at 5:00 to recognize the remodeling of the children’s area funded by the Bennett Cline Memorial Fund.
- The statistics are now being reported slightly differently due to the conversion to Carl X. Mr. Oliver noted several things:
 - The change from July to August in the number of cardholders is due to a database cleanup. To ensure that our cardholder percentage keeps going up, Andrea Fanta is working on automatic registration of Metro employees and people signing up for Metro services.
 - In the circulation statistics, virtual (online) renewals are now a separate category, rather than being attributed to specific branches. This will cause a drop in circulation at some locations.
 - We are showing lower door count numbers for several reasons: door counters are inconsistent, virtual visits are increasing, and there have been some closures for renovations.

Mr. Simmons asked if the Board could periodically get 5-year comparisons, in order to see long-term trends. Ms. Hukan will also re-insert the trend line for visits. Ms. Searcy asked if the diversity statistics could be reported in real numbers as well as percentages.

- Due to the holidays, we will combine the November and December Board meetings into one meeting on December 12 at the Main Library.

V. Board Chair Comments

Mr. Simmons congratulated Ms. Fanta’s team on the September 8 Library of the Year read-a-thon event. It was live streamed on Facebook and got a lot of community buy-in and social media attention.

VI. Staff Reports

a. *Education Programs & MNPS—Elyse Adler and Liz Attack*

Ms. Adler noted that while the library has been providing literacy programs for years, there are now three citywide literacy initiatives with which we can align our resources to support student and teacher goals, find gaps in service, and provide training as needed to families and teachers. The first is the MNPS strategic plan, *Exceeding Great Expectations*. The second is the Nashville Literacy Collaborative, which focuses on grade-level reading and will be releasing their *Blueprint for Early Childhood Success* soon. And the third is the Public Education Leadership program (PELP), which will be piloting a literacy program at six elementary schools starting in January.

Ms. Attack went into further detail about each initiative. The MNPS plan was released in the spring and has four components: students, people (staff), community (families/nonprofits), and organization (MNPS operations). NPL will work to see how library programs and services can tie into this plan. The Nashville Literacy Collaborative (NLC) is made up of about seventeen organizations including the library, the Mayor’s Office, the Nashville Public Education Foundation, the Chamber, the Center for Nonprofit Management, and PENCIL. It is focused on third grade reading scores because 34% of Nashville’s third graders are not reading at grade level. To help guide the NLC’s work, Lipscomb is doing research on existing literacy programs in Nashville as well as what other communities are doing to tackle this problem. The blueprint has six pillars:

- Strengthen birth – 3 supports (we are one of only three organizations in Nashville doing work in this area)
- Improve quality and access to pre-K
- Strengthen the district’s ability to meet student literacy needs
- Substantially reduce chronic absenteeism
- Stem the tide on summer reading loss and better maximize out of school time

- Raise public consciousness of the importance and urgency of early literacy

At this time, the governance of the NLC is the constellation model (rather than any one group being the lead organization), but the Library will be a key partner in implementing the NLC's recommendations.

PELP pilots will start in January with a new literacy curriculum at the six target schools, and will continue through the summer. We will be involved in the pilots by hosting reading tutors in branches, providing trainings for families about library offerings, and making sure that teachers are using their Limitless Libraries educator cards.

Mr. Oliver will send the Blueprint to the Board, and will also create ten advocacy points for Board members to use when talking about the library's role in education in the community.

VII. Old Business

a. *Strategic Plan Resolution—Kent Oliver*

Mr. Oliver explained that he had incorporated the alternative wording suggested by the Board at the last meeting. The next step will be for the admin team to develop the scorecards for each goal at the admin retreat in early October. Joyce Searcy moved for approval of resolution 2017-09.01; the motion was seconded by Lucy Haynes and passed unanimously.

Nashville Public Library
Board
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Resolution Title: Nashville Public Library 2017 Strategic Plan

History/Background/Discussion:

The library's strategic plan has been under development since October 2016. The Strategy Team, a working group consisting of a cross section of library staff, has been guiding this process. The team has completed a process of research, program analysis, library staff input and focus group sessions lead by Cissy Mynatt, a local non-profit consultant. The plan builds on the library's previous planning process. Ms. Mynatt was also the consultant on that project as well as recently working with the Nashville Public Library Foundation.

This plan focuses on creating a strategy map intended to present a visual picture of the library's intended direction. Score cards are the working documents developed from objectives in the map. It is very much a working document. The score cards will be implemented by existing library working committees, ad hoc staff committees and the Library Administration. Progress in achieving the plan will be monitored and tracked. Key pieces from the plan will be included as part of individual staff performance plans. Reports will be provided to the Board at key intervals.

Recommendation: That the Library Board endorse the planning document.

Drafter(s): Kent Oliver, Library Director

Person(s) Responsible for Implementation: The Library Director and Strategy Team

RESOLUTION 2017-09.01
Nashville Public Library Strategic Plan 2017

WHEREAS, the Library completed the last strategic plan in 2013 and

WHEREAS, the library staff have completed an action plan to continue that previous process, and

WHEREAS, this process has embraced public, library staff, Board and foundation input;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees that the Library Board endorses the 2017 Strategy Map and its concepts and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that staff will bring back progress reports of work on the map through report cards regularly to the Board.



VISION: All members of our diverse community are empowered through limitless learning opportunities to enrich their lives

WE VALUE: Extraordinary Customer Service, Love of Reading, Lifelong Learning, Intellectual Freedom, Innovation, Excellence, Inclusiveness

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Next Board Meeting—

12:00 p.m., October 17, 2017

Green Hills Branch Library

3701 Benham Ave, Nashville, TN 37215

Respectfully submitted by Beth Deeb