

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Minutes from December 14, 2021
Main Library, 615 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37219
Conference Room 1A – 12:00 noon

Members Present: Joyce Searcy, Kate Ezell, Robert Oermann, Charvis Rand, Katy Varney, Adriana Bialostozky

Library Staff: Kent Oliver, Lee Boulie, Kate Rose Collingwood, Bassam Habib, Terri Luke, Forrest Eagle, Jena Schmid, Linda Harrison, Susan Drye, Sherry Adams, Libby Cain, Emily Kriebel

Others: Matthew Garth, Assistant Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Shawn Bakker, Nashville Public Library Foundation President, Bernadette Hukan,

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. Joyce Searcy called the meeting to order at 12:07 PM.

II. Metro Ordinance required to be announced at all Board Meetings – *Chair, Joyce Searcy*

- a. “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. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy, Chair*

- a. Ms. Searcy mentioned the passing of board member Keith Simmons’ wife and urged members to reach out to Keith with condolences. She also thanked NPLF and those who attended the Gala last month, stating that it was a marvelous event.

IV. Approval of Minutes: October 25, 2021

- a. **Robert Oermann moved for approval of the minutes; the motion was seconded by Katy Varney and passed unanimously.**

V. Library Director Report, *Kent Oliver*

- a. Mr. Oliver thanked Bernadette Hukan for her 30 years of library service. Ms. Hukan retired on December 10th and she will be greatly missed. The room gave Ms. Hukan a standing ovation.

- b. Linda Harrison introduced Bassam Habib, the new Be Well at NPL Coordinator. Mr. Habib thanked everyone for the welcome.
- c. Metro passed the American Rescue Plan Act which grants \$500,000 to NPL for HVAC upgrades.
- d. The Capital Spending Plan was passed by Council last week. \$221 million was initially requested by NPL, \$13 million for library infrastructure repairs and replacement. \$5 million was approved for the Main Library and \$4 million the branches for infrastructure.
- e. Mr. Oliver noted NPL is working to fill vacancies. Sherry Adams and Libby Cain put together interviews for all open positions. There are currently 59 vacancies throughout the system. Mr. Oliver mentioned this problem was not unique to NPL.

A. Budget Mr. Oliver and staff are working on the FY23 budget. Highlights from the draft proposal include funding for more security officers and custodians, requesting funds to open the Main Library two nights a week, reclassifying branch manager positions, a new EDI officer position, and adding funded summer programming for NAZA. The Board concurred with the direction being taken in the budget development.

VI. Nashville Public Library Foundation Report, *Shawn Bakker*

- a. Ms. Bakker thanked library staff for their help with the Gala last month. The event netted \$500,000 and helped diversify library supporters. NPLF is preparing for String City on February 27th at 11:00 AM in the Main Library auditorium. They are also preparing for Picnic with the Library on May 1st. NPLF continues to work on creating an advocacy taskforce.

VII. New Business

- a. NECAT Endorsement Resolution, *Kent Oliver* and *Lee Boulie*

Mr. Oliver reviewed the NECAT process to date and key items in the resolution cover sheet. Ms. Boulie reviewed the budget for NECAT operations and capital. After a brief discussion **Robert Oermann moved to approve the resolution; the motion was seconded by Charvis Rand and passed unanimously.**

Resolution Title: Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between The Nashville Education Community and Arts Television Corporation (NECAT) and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

History/Background/Discussion:

The Nashville Public Library (NPL) entered discussions in 2021 with an Ad Hoc group originating in the Mayor's Office pursuing options for the sustainability of Nashville Educational and Community Access Channels (NECAT). The suggestion that NPL might be an ideal partner to operate the public access channel and studio arose this last spring. NPL was brought into informal conversations this summer. On September 17, 2021 the NPL Board convened for a study session to discuss details involving this proposal. The attached agreement does not vary significantly from details shared during that meeting except for one primary detail, which resulted from the advice of the Library Board study sessions and conversations with the NECAT Board.

If the attached agreement is approved by the NPL Board and Metro Council, NPL will manage and operate all three NECAT channels: iQTV (education), Music City Arts (arts) and Access Nashville (community access) rather than only the community/public access channel.

The logic behind NPL assuming this role is valid and consistent with NPL's mission. NECAT would provide a platform to produce and expand access to NPL Universe programming, which began during the pandemic, as well as seek to enhance the quality of NECAT's productions. In addition, it is a logical extension of the role NPL already performs with Studio NPL by creating a hands-on learning experience of audio and video production technology. By providing the technology support of the studio, NPL would also have access to additional production equipment and spaces.

NPL is confident and assured by our discussions with the Mayor's Office and Metro ITS that financial resources will be made available to meet NECAT budget considerations. Metro ITS staff currently operating NECAT will be transferred to NPL when the agreement is implemented.

The attached agreement was approved by the NECAT Board on November 18, 2021. If the NPL Board approves it, we expect a bill to be filed with Council in January to finalize the process.

Recommendation: The Board endorse the NECAT agreement.

Drafter(s): Kent Oliver

Person(s) Responsible for Implementation: Kent Oliver, Library Director

Lee Boulie, Assistant Director for Collections and
Technology

Linda Harrison, Assistant Director for Education and
Literacy

RESOLUTION 2021-12.01

Intergovernmental Agreement by and Between The Nashville Education Community and Arts Television Corporation (NECAT) and the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

WHEREAS, Metro government has been granted 4 Public, Educational and Government Access (PEG) channels through its cable franchise agreements codified in Metro Ordinance and 3 channels are designated as iQTV (education), Music City Arts (arts) and Access Nashville (community access) programmed and operated by the NECAT Board, and

WHEREAS, NECAT's current mission is to provide access to arts and education programming created both locally and around the world as well as create a platform for individuals and organizations to develop production and programming skills, and

WHEREAS, NPL has developed NPL Universe to expand access to library programming and resources using a variety of video production methods and,

WHEREAS, NPL's mission is to Advance Learning, and

WHEREAS, the NECAT Board desires to establish greater sustainability for the NECAT channels by endorsing the attached agreement with NPL which includes management of NECAT programming channels and studio resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED by the Nashville Public Library Board that the attached agreement is endorsed.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

12:00 noon – January 18, 2022

Main Library

615 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37219

Respectfully submitted by Emily Krieble