

Nashville Public Library Board of Trustees
Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2024
Main Library
615 Church Street
Nashville, TN 37219
12:00 PM

Members Present: Joyce Searcy, Keith Simmons, Kate Ezell, Nadine De La Rosa, Katie Varney, Charvis Rand

Library Staff: Terri Luke, Lee Boulie, Jennifer Schmid, Angela Fanta, Ryan Darrow, Andrea Fanta, Sherry Adams, Jenny Ellis, Jenny Lane, Forrest Eagle, Miryam Rose

Others: Macy Amos, Metropolitan Attorney at Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County

I. Call to Order / Roll Call

- a. The meeting was called to order at 12:00 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. Public Comments

- a. “Pursuant to T. C. A. § 8-44-12, time is reserved at the beginning of Library Board meetings for which there is an actionable item on the agenda for public comment germane to items on the agenda. Up to five people will be allowed up to three minutes each to speak. Speakers must register within one half hour prior to the beginning of the meeting by signing their name on a physical sign-up sheet available at the entrance, and identifying any agenda item on which they intend to comment.

IV. Board Chair Comments, *Joyce Searcy*

- a. Ms. Joyce Searcy thanked everyone that was involved in the Donelson opening event. Ms. Searcy added how fantastic it was and highlighted the magnificence of the

publicity and the people gathered. Ms. Searcy noted the high volume of people that continue to visit the Donelson library.

V. Approval of Minutes: June 18, 2024

- a. Ms. Kate Ezell made a motion to approve the June 18th board meeting minutes. Mr. Keith Simmons seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Interim Library Director Report, *Terri Luke*

- a. Ms. Terri Luke congratulated Ms. Lee Boulie on her new position as the Library Director for Brentwood Public Library. Ms. Luke announced August 7th to be Ms. Boulie's last day and thanked Ms. Boulie for all her work the last five years at the Nashville Public Library.
 - i. Ms. Boulie also extended her thanks and expressed her love for the Nashville Public Library. Ms. Boulie thanked the NPL Board and Ms. Luke for their good leadership. Ms. Boulie also thanked all the staff and volunteers for their positive contributions.
- b. Ms. Luke shared the incredibleness of the Donelson ribbon-cutting event and made acknowledgments to Mr. Ryan Darrow's leadership, Ms. Andrea Fanta and all the volunteers who made that day possible. Ms. Luke reported that Councilmember Jeff Gregg and the Friend's group at the new Donelson Branch helped raise more than \$40,000 for the library.
 - i. Ms. Luke noted the large amount of people both outside and inside the library on opening day. Ms. Luke also shared Ms. Susan Drye and her sons' testimony of how busy the branch was on their visit to the Donelson library this past Saturday.
 - ii. Ms. Luke shared that Mayor O'Connell went behind the circulation desk and checked out books for customers.
 - iii. Ms. Kate Ezell noted artist Amber Lelli's artwork to be a remarkable model to the community and added that the artist did a supreme job of incorporating Nashville and Tennessee artisans.
 - iv. Ms. Luke added that having both indoor and outdoor art was a nice collaboration with Metro Arts.
 - v. Ms. Luke noted that both artists conducted focus groups for community input and the community really appreciated the incorporation of Tennessee's flora + fauna and the water.

- vi. Ms. Luke remarked how the art was like a “Where’s Waldo?” experience for the children.
- c. Ms. Luke announced the continuation of the Art Lending Library at NPL.
- i. Ms. Luke stated that during the pandemic, Metro Arts reached out to NPL to inquire about Art Lending and Ms. Luke noted that the art was from Nashville artists, not copies of famous artists.
 - ii. Ms. Luke noted the popularity of the Metro Arts Lending Library with over 500 works of art that have continually checked out. Ms. Luke added that there are 60 pieces with 30 pieces at the Madison branch and 30 pieces at the Southeast branch and Metro Arts asked NPL if the 57 additional pieces that have been purchased can be expanded to libraries at Donelson, East, Green Hills, Hermitage, and Old Hickory.
 - iii. Ms. Luke announced that there is a kick-off event on Thursday evening from 5:30 to 8:00 pm and invited the NPL Board to join. Ms. Luke noted that this project is funded with the Metro Nashville percent for public art.
 - iv. Ms. Ezell asked how long the art pieces can be checked out and Ms. Luke responded that the art may be checked out for three months.
 - v. Ms. Luke acknowledged Ms. Lee Boulie, Ms. Noel Rutherford, and their team’s work in setting up the process to move the fragile art.
 - vi. Mr. Keith Simmons asked if the art pieces are returned in good condition. Ms. Luke responded that Ms. Rutherford purchased very specific cases to protect the art and noted that only one art piece did not get returned.
 - vii. Mr. Simmons asked if the art pieces were all paintings and not objects of art. Ms. Luke responded that a few of the pieces were 3D but most of the art pieces were painted art.
 - viii. Ms. Searcy inquired about the blank space on the wall when the art is checked out. Ms. Luke explained that there is a rendering of the art behind the original art and patrons can place the art piece on hold or look at the wall for other pieces that are available for check out.
- d. Ms. Luke shared that NPL was informed of a potential Budget True-Up of up to 1.4 percent after the budget was passed, which amounts to between \$600,000-\$800,000. Ms. Luke reported that this past Friday, Ms. Susan Drye was notified of the actual Budget True-Up to be \$631,400.

- i. The Budget True-Up was discussed at yesterday's Admin team meeting and Ms. Luke will continue to meet with Ms. Sherry Adams and Ms. Susan Drye to review vacant positions and locate the savings.
 - ii. Ms. Luke stated that no final decisions have been made at this time.
 - iii. Mr. Simmons commented that he has not heard of Budget True-Up and asked if this was new. Ms. Drye responded that the last time Budget True-Up occurred was after the pandemic and 11 positions were permanently cut to help with the state reformulating school funding.
 - iv. Ms. Drye noted that this Budget True-Up was not a permanent cut but forced savings taken out of NPL's budget.
 - v. Mr. Simmons asked what the difference between a permanent cut is and whether NPL's budget is now minus \$630,000 starting on July 1st. Ms. Drye responded that NPL's budget starting on July 1, 2024, will be \$631,000 less than expected.
 - vi. Mr. Simmons stated that the budget cut was permanent. Ms. Drye clarified that NPL is expected to receive this savings back next year and the vacancies do not need to be cut. Ms. Drye pointed out that permanent cuts were made to positions in previous years due to Budget True-Up.
 - vii. Ms. Drye stated that 70 percent of NPL's budget consists of salaries and benefits. Mr. Simmons' asked if NPL was not hiring vacancies and Ms. Drye confirmed the hold on vacancies for a longer period. Ms. Ezell asked if staff hours can be cut, and Ms. Drye responded that reducing hours would be very difficult to maintain the service hours needed.
 - viii. Ms. Luke shared Ms. Drye's report that NPL received a \$46M budget and half a year funding to staff the new Donelson branch library.
 - ix. Mr. Simmons commented that this could have been worse. Ms. Luke added that eleven positions in branch services were permanently cut in the past.
 - x. Ms. Luke and Ms. Drye clarified to Mr. Simmons question that the \$46M budget were Metro funds for operations only and Ms. Drye pointed out that this was the first time in NPL's history receiving \$46M budget.
- e. Ms. Luke stated that during the operating budget process, Council Member Vo reached out during their initial preparation for budget amendments and highlighted NPL's budget of \$35,000 for translation services. Ms. Luke added that NPL received \$35,000 for translation services last year.

- i. Ms. Vo shared that the minority caucus expressed the importance for translation services.
- ii. Ms. Vo asked if NPL can do translation services without the \$35,000. Ms. Luke responded that this depends on how much NPL will need to give back for the Budget True-Up. Luke stated that no promises can be made if the Budget True-Up is too high, but NPL will work hard to continue with the plans for translation services.
- iii. Ms. Luke reported that the minority caucus found the \$35,000 and gave that amount to NPL's budget. Ms. Vo stated that the minority caucus members were impressed and wanted to support NPL's work in providing services for customers whom English is not their first language.
- iv. Ms. Luke shared that the leadership team will be putting together a plan and currently, NPL has a purchase order to receive real-time translation in six languages. Ms. Luke stated that more information on this plan will be reported back to the Board.
- v. Ms. Luke reported that Ms. Lee Boulie and her team did the website translations this year and both Ms. Jenny Ellis and Ms. Jenny Lane will discuss this in their staff reports.
- vi. Mr. Simmons pointed out that while \$631,000 is taken away from NPL's budget, NPL receives the \$35,000 back into the budget and Ms. Drye's team clarified that the true Budget True-Up amount was now \$597,000.
- vii. Ms. Ezell and Mr. Simmons expressed amazement that real-time translation services can be done with a \$35,000 budget. Ms. Luke noted that NPL narrowed down to the six most spoken languages throughout Metro. Ms. Luke noted Admin team's plan to promote these services to customers and the plan will provide an indication of additional costs.
- viii. Ms. Ezell asked if there was a service provider that NPL subscribes to. Ms. Drye stated they have a contract and purchase order. The vendors are awaiting instructions from Ms. Drye.
- ix. Mr. Simmons asked how the service works. Ms. Drye stated that the company is based out of Arizona. The service requires a customer to call the number with a member ID and a PIN. The customer then selects which language they require, and the service provides a live interpreter on the phone. Ms. Luke noted that this is different from apps, which rely on artificial intelligence.
- x. Mr. Simmons brought up a scenario in which if a customer walked into the Donelson branch and did not speak English, whether this customer can dial

the number and find an interpreter. Ms. Drye responded that some procedures and trainings need to be in place so that staff can identify which language is needed.

- xi. Ms. Luke both pointed out that the service is available to translate six languages but if additional languages are needed, the service could provide up to 100 different languages.
- xii. Mr. Simmons reviewed the languages selected by NPL which are Spanish, Arabic, Kurdish, Somalia, Vietnamese, and Burmese. Ms. Drye noted that these six are the most spoken languages in Davidson County.
- xiii. Ms. Jenny Lane reported that the language selections were based on the 2017 Metro Language Access Report.
- xiv. Ms. Luke shared her hopes to expand into other services after looking at the costs.

VII. New Business

a. NPLF Retail Space, *NPLF*

- i. In Ms. Shawn Bakker's absence, Ms. Ezell shared the good news that a letter of intent was received from Oscar's Tacos to use the old Jim Cooper Congressman space. Ms. Ezell noted that Oscar's Tacos had a location downtown, but the landlord asked them to move because they wanted to use the space.
- ii. Ms. Ezell shared that Ms. Bakker expects for the lease to be signed in the next month.
- iii. Ms. Ezell had asked Ms. Bakker how long the space has been vacant, and Ms. Bakker responded that the space has been vacant for a year and a half.
- iv. Ms. Drye noted that the space is not equipped for a restaurant and will require build out, ventilation, and plumbing which will take some time.
- v. Ms. Ezell asked who will be funding this work. Ms. Drye responded that it will not be Metro and Ms. Ezell stated that it would not be NPLF.
- vi. Ms. Searcy asked if the Copper Branch restaurant will remain, and it was confirmed yes.
- vii. Ms. Drye noted that the Copper Branch space was an easier conversion as the space was originally another restaurant.

- viii. Mr. Simmons asked if Oscar's Tacos will need a kitchen and Ms. Drye responded that the space will need a fully functioning kitchen. Ms. Drye noted that from her understanding, Oscar's Tacos are leasing only a portion of the space.
- ix. Mr. Simmons expressed fascination for The Morgan Library during his visit to New York this past weekend. Mr. Simmons encouraged readers of *The Personal Librarian* book to visit this library. Mr. Simmons also noted the 15th century art and renaissance at the library.
- x. Ms. Searcy thanked Mr. Simmons for letting everyone know and noted that Carnegie Society members can receive a tour.

VIII. Staff Reports

a. Main Closure, *Susan Drye*

- i. Ms. Drye stated that NPL received the capital money to fix the major HVAC issues.
- ii. After checking with the project manager yesterday, Ms. Drye reported that the coils have shipped, and the schedule remains the same. On August 19th, the entire Main building will be closed to the public, but the retail spaces will remain open as they are on a separate HVAC system.
- iii. Ms. Drye reported that the heat exchanger will be replaced during the week of the closure. The East side of the building will remain down while the coils are replaced for two weeks. The East side will come back up and the West side of the building will be down for approximately three weeks.
- iv. Ms. Drye stated that the building must remain closed to the public because one side of the building will be hot while the other side is cool, and vice versa.
- v. Ms. Drye expressed hope for the building to be back up and running by October 4th.
- vi. Ms. Searcy asked about the plan for staff relocations. Ms. Drye noted that B1 level, B2 level, the conference center and the public portion of Special Collections will be back up after the one week of closure, as they are on different systems. Ms. Drye stated that some staff will work on-site but noted the challenge in relocating and reassigning tasks for the public-facing staff.
- vii. Ms. Luke shared that part of the plan is for Mr. Kyle Barber and Ms. Jenna Schmid to work together for staff reassignments to branch libraries.
- viii. Ms. Luke was asked why this could not wait until the weather was cooler. Ms. Luke stated that the longer they wait, the less effective the coils become. The coils are currently operating at 60 percent.
- ix. Ms. Searcy inquired about the library bookings in the Fall.
- x. Ms. Ezell noted the importance of the third floor in helping patrons who need jobs. Ms. Luke responded that bus transportation was available to other

branch libraries and both Ms. Luke and Ms. Andrea Fanta have been in communication with the Metro Office of Homeless Services.

- xi. Ms. Luke stated that plans are in place with a master spreadsheet and the admin team is meeting weekly to put these plans in motion when the Main building closes.
 - xii. Mr. Simmons asked where Ms. Luke and the Administration team were relocating to. Ms. Luke responded that the Administration team will be working at the Main library when B1 and B2 are back up. Ms. Luke may utilize Mr. Barber's old office on the third floor. Ms. Drye will be on-site at Main.
 - xiii. Mr. Simmons asked for an update regarding the trees in the Main courtyard. Ms. Drye responded that currently, the project has moved to the semi-design stage and confirmed the removal of the trees during the Main library closure.
 - xiv. Ms. Searcy asked if the trees are being transplanted to another location. Ms. Drye responded no and stated that the trees' survival rate is 25 percent even under perfect circumstances and conditions.
 - xv. Ms. Drye noted that the Japanese Maple tree will remain in the courtyard.
 - xvi. Ms. Ezell asked if a visual plan was finalized. Ms. Drye stated that plans have not been finalized but will be working with the NPL Board and the Robinson family.
 - xvii. Ms. Luke noted the capital spending plan that Ms. Drye has been working on with the first part being design development for Hadley Park library and renovations for Green Hills library. The second part will be design development for Richland Park library and renovations for the Hermitage library.
 - xviii. Ms. Ezell shared that on her visit to the Green Hills branch library to vote, she learned from a display that a Nashvillian owned about 30 Wheaties cereal boxes dating back to 1912. The NPL Board members commented that the displays at the Green Hills library were always interesting. Ms. Luke added that Ms. Heidi Berg is the branch manager at Green Hills and there is a waiting list to place items in the display cabinets and on the walls leading to the meeting rooms.
- b. Website Translation, *Jenny Ellis, Jenny Lane*
- i. Ms. Lee Boulie shared her appreciation of Ms. Jenny Ellis and Ms. Jenny Lane's work. Ms. Boulie praised the initiative of the Shared Systems team and noted that both managers have been working for NPL for a long time.
 - ii. Ms. Lane has been with NPL for 19 years and Ms. Ellis has been with NPL for 21 years.
 - iii. Ms. Lane shared that the Shared Systems team provide library automation and discovery for both the libraries and the schools. In addition, the team also provides website support to the library and Limitless Libraries.

- iv. Ms. Lane stated that the team has become aware of the growing foreign-born population in Nashville and wanted to provide a useful and welcoming website to that population.
- v. Ms. Lane shared that the prospect looked expensive but due to innovations in the last year, machine translations could be used to meet the need for the six languages.
- vi. Ms. Lane showed the language picker on the NPL website located on the common placement where the six languages are supported.
- vii. Ms. Lane noted that the module supports 100 plus languages but suggested not adding too many languages to avoid confusion.
- viii. Ms. Lane stated that NPL has a paid for the module to permanently translate library terminologies on the website and showed the NPL Board examples of webpage translation in the Spanish language.
- ix. Mr. Simmons asked whether NPL subscribes or owns the software. Ms. Lane responded that the software is called GTranslate and it was acquired through NPL's web vendor, Net Tango, which is the same vendor used by Nashville.gov. Ms. Lane added that NPL has a 10-year contract with the web vendor.
- x. Mr. Simmons asked if the software comes out of the Metro budget and Ms. Lane responded that it comes out of their web development budget. Ms. Ellis added that the software's annual cost is a couple hundred dollars. Ms. Lane noted that the software is much more cost-effective than using human translation and less labor intensive and timely.
- xi. Ms. Lane pointed out the "Get a Library Card" page of the website where the embedded forms and landing page gets translated after the form is submitted.
- xii. Ms. Lane stated that the next step would be to translate emails. A separate company will need to be set up with NPL.
- xiii. Ms. Lane pointed out the "Wishing Chair Productions" page under "Events" which has a subpage with its own navigation at the top of the webpage. Ms. Lane had the webpage translated in Arabic and showed the NPL Board proper names that do not get translated in Arabic, unlike some of the other languages. Ms. Lane stated that the module allows a file of things that NPL does not want translated. Ms. Lane also pointed out that Arabic is a right-to-left language which causes issues and misalignments when translated. Ms. Lane's team will be working on this.
- xiv. Ms. Lane reported that the website translation will go live on July 24th and will inform staff.
- xv. Ms. Drye asked if only two languages were currently available. Ms. Lane responded that all six languages were available on the module, and it will not be difficult to add more languages.
- xvi. Ms. Ezell asked if website translation was common among library systems. Ms. Ellis responded that most libraries use the free Google Translate and

place this service on their website but does not provide the customization that manual translations allow at reduced costs.

- xvii. Mr. Simmons asked if NPL has collections in the languages the module provides. Ms. Lane responded that the search function can be utilized in the catalog to locate a collection item in a particular language.
- xviii. Ms. Boulie added that NPL has a larger collection in Spanish and Arabic and they have been working on building the Kurdish collection over the past few years. Ms. Boulie noted that the catalog was translated first to Spanish and Arabic.
- xix. Ms. Lane added that publishing and accessibility can affect the library's collection in different languages and noted that Ms. Noel Rutherford spends much time thoroughly sourcing foreign-language material.
- xx. Ms. Boulie noted Ms. Rutherford's work with the Library of Congress to purchase items from publishers in Cairo and Egypt that publish Arabic to build NPL's multi-lingual collection.
- xxi. Mr. Simmons commented that this is an added reason why collection has become expensive.
- xxii. Ms. Searcy commented that this information was eye-opening for her.
- xxiii. Dr. Nadine De La Rosa shared that as a Spanish native-speaking person, she observed the website translation to be quick, intuitive, and accurate.
- xxiv. Ms. Searcy noted the need for promotions so that Spanish speaking customers are aware of this service and added that she is on the Board of Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and she does not think businesses know about this service.
- xxv. Ms. Luke stated that NPL does need a plan to promote this service.
- xxvi. Ms. Luke added that as a person on the leadership team, she was very impressed with the six languages and thanked both Ms. Lane and Ms. Ellis for their work, especially in reducing costs and bringing accuracy.
- xxvii. Ms. Lane shared possible next steps in partnering with MNPS and supporting Limitless Libraries by placing this widget on the Limitless Libraries webpage to support the languages MNPS supports.
- xxviii. Ms. Ezell asked if usage will be tracked. Ms. Lane and Ms. Ellis responded that the service may provide statistical data, but they will find ways to track usage data.
- xxix. Ms. Searcy thanked Ms. Lane and Ms. Ellis for dreaming big.
- xxx. Dr. De La Rosa asked a follow-up question on whether languages can be offered with the new passport plan. Ms. Luke responded that currently, the passport is a pilot program, and they are at staff capacity with every available slot booked through August. Ms. Luke noted that the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) will allow NPL to look at the 2-3 priorities for customer service this fiscal year and shift staff assignments accordingly.

xxxi. Ms. Luke noted that the Assistant Directors indicated the needs of their departments during previous year's budget and Ms. Boulie brought the need for website translation. NPL presented this to the Mayor's Office who expressed concern that \$35,000 would not be enough. Ms. Luke shared her awe in what the team has done.

c. Donelson Branch Update, *Ryan Darrow, Andrea Fanta*

- i. Ms. Luke introduced Ms. Andrea Fanta and Mr. Ryan Darrow, who is the branch manager for the new Donelson library.
- ii. Mr. Darrow thanked the NPL Board for inviting them to share the success of the new Donelson library opening day. Mr. Darrow stated that it was eight long years of planning and construction, with Mr. Darrow helping the last couple of years.
- iii. Mr. Darrow showed the NPL Board the rendering of the new Donelson library.
- iv. Mr. Darrow noted that this library is a LEED Gold targeted branch with a geothermal well in front of the building with solar panels on the roof. Mr. Darrow added that the orientation of the building prevents heat intrusion and encouraged everyone to come visit.
- v. Ms. Andrea Fanta stated that the MarCom plan began six months prior to the event.
- vi. Ms. Fanta shared that one of MarCom's primary goals and success was creating an emotional connection for the community and for the Donelson customers. Ms. Fanta noted a challenge which was in keeping people excited with anticipation while the new library was undergoing construction.
- vii. Ms. Fanta shared an aspect she liked about the campaign which was using transparency to create a sense of emotional connection with customers well before opening day.
- viii. Mr. Darrow incorporated the nostalgia of the old Donelson building which opened in 1966 and was well-loved by the community. Mr. Darrow also shared the Donelson team did a blog post detailing all the previous branch managers and the staff, including Katherine Culbertson who later became Tennessee's State Librarian.
- ix. Ms. Fanta shared best practice of creating a 360-marketing ecosystem with city-wide communications coming from the MarCom team and hyperlocal communications coming from Mr. Darrow and his team.
- x. Ms. Fanta shared the beginning of the campaign, "Roadmap to New Donelson Branch Library," a concept created by Mr. Ed Brown from MarCom. Mr. Darrow pointed out that not only was the roadmap a printout, but a website that provided information about the New Donelson library.

- xi. Mr. Darrow added that the line drawing was done by NPLF, and the new Donelson logo was done by Mr. Edward Patton from MarCom who hand drew nine different logo options for the Donelson team to choose from.
- xii. Ms. Fanta highlighted the following speakers at Donelson's opening day event: Mayor O'Connell, Council Member Jeff Greg, longtime Donelson branch library patron Ms. Erycka Shorter, Board Chair Joyce Searcy, Interim Library Director Terri Luke, Director of Metro General Services Gerald Smith, Sr, and Former Council Member Jeff Syracuse.
- xiii. Ms. Fanta added another best practice which was to involve customers and patrons outside of the Metro circle.
- xiv. Ms. Fanta noted that the new Donelson is the fifth branch to have a vehicle registration and renewal kiosk.
- xv. Mr. Darrow shared the following data for Donelson's door count, circulation, and library card signups on Opening Day:

Opening Day

Door count = **2,276** (front door only)

Circulation = **2,126** checkouts by **471 patrons**

Library Card Signups = **62**

For context:

In April 2024, DO did:

Registrations = 141

Circulation = 8,279

Door Count = 6,368

- xvi. Mr. Darrow noted that the Donelson team did 26 percent of their circulation, 44 percent of their registration, and 36 percent of their door count in a single day.
- xvii. Ms. Fanta shared the following marketing metrics and analytics:

Earned Media:

WPLN, WKRN, Mix 92.9, Axios Nashville, Tennessean

Web:

9,698 views

Socials:

44,209 reach

2,032 engagements

Emails:

193,936+ reach

140,000+ opens

10,000+ clicks

- xviii. Ms. Fanta noted that this campaign performed slightly better than the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Card campaign and the email performance for this campaign also outperformed NPL's usual email performance.
- xix. Mr. Darrow highlighted Council Member Jeff Greg who spearheaded the fundraising which was comprised of 15 dedicated Friends volunteers. The fundraising consisted of merchandise sales, direct giving, architecture and design tour, preview party, silent auction, and "Giving Day" from Nectar.
- xx. In total, Mr. Darrow reported \$46,000 raised consisting of unrestricted funds; \$15,000 Caregiver/Child Computer Carrel donated from the Stones River Women's Club; and a \$6,000 mobile demonstration kitchen donated from HIP Donelson. Mr. Darrow noted they did not need to use the FF&E budget due to these available funds and can repurpose these funds in other ways.
- xxi. Mr. Darrow and Ms. Fanta then shared the blueprint for future projects.
- xxii. Ms. Fanta noted the upcoming design work at Richland Park and Hadley branch libraries and the upcoming renovations at Green Hills and Hermitage branch libraries. Ms. Fanta will empower the advocacy task force as well as increase engagement with Council Members. Ms. Fanta noted Vice Mayor Angie Henderson's attendance at the grand opening of new Donelson and discussed collaborations for more formal ways to engage with Council Members. Ms. Fanta added including real people with every project.
- xxiii. Ms. Fanta stated that this event was affirmation of the need for a full suite integrated marketing agency in the library. Ms. Fanta expressed appreciation on behalf of MarCom and the leadership team for making the investment.
- xxiv. Ms. Fanta thanked and asked the NPL Board to be ambassadors for the four projects coming up and all the work NPL does.
- xxv. Mr. Darrow shared the importance of setting dates for road maps, website, Shared Systems, and having meeting rooms available and ready. Mr. Darrow added that the planning touches every department.
- xxvi. Ms. Fanta thanked the NPL Board and opened the time for questions.
- xxvii. Mr. Charvis Rand stated that "you cannot talk about innovation without creativity" and thanked Ms. Fanta and Mr. Darrow for the success of the opening event. Mr. Rand shared that he has known and worked with Council Member Gregg for over 20 years and commented that the Council Member will be a great asset to the Donelson community.
- xxviii. Mr. Rand asked Ms. Luke and Ms. Drye about the old Donelson building. Ms. Luke stated that she has asked the Mayor's office to keep the old Donelson building in case the library needs a location for NECAT. NPL is currently in the process of negotiating with Nashville State to renew the NECAT lease. Ms. Luke added that if the contract does not go through, there

- are funds available to renovate the old Donelson building and provide a space for the NECAT Studio and a place to park the bookmobile. Ms. Luke shared that once she knows more about NECAT, then other options can be explored.
- xxix. Ms. Searcy asked what the Mayor's office response was. Ms. Luke responded that NPL will be keeping the building. Ms. Drye added that NPL is currently maintaining the building. Mr. Rand shared that he had some ideas for the facility.
- xxx. Ms. Searcy asked about the piece of equipment bought by one of the organizations that was related to childcare. Mr. Darrow responded that the equipment is a computer station for adults by the windows on the second floor. Mr. Darrow added that a little play pen is attached to the equipment for customers to keep their infant or toddler safely next to them. Mr. Darrow noted that the new Donelson is the first branch in the Nashville Public Library system to receive this equipment.
- xxxi. Mr. Darrow stated that Donelson received grants from the state to do the solar bench outside and the universal changing table on the second floor that can accommodate adults and is the first branch to receive this piece.
- xxxii. Ms. Searcy asked about the security and cameras. Ms. Drye responded that the library is well-covered with cameras.
- xxxiii. Dr. De La Rosa asked if furniture has been placed in the outdoor space. Mr. Darrow responded that the furniture for the veranda is on order.
- xxxiv. Ms. Fanta and Mr. Darrow thanked Ms. Annie Herlocker for her assistance and coordination on opening day and Ms. Jennifer Fournier, the project manager.
- xxxv. The NPL Board applauded the team and Ms. Searcy commented that they were proud.
- xxxvi. Ms. Ezell asked about the date for the Board retreat.
- xxxvii. Mr. Simmons noted that there was no Board meeting in August but asked if there was a study session. Ms. Luke responded that it has not been confirmed.
- xxxviii. Ms. Searcy added that Ms. Rosalyn Carpenter will be helping with the Study Session.
- xxxix. Ms. Varney asked if the next Board meeting was in September. Ms. Luke confirmed the date and location of September's Board meeting.
- xl. Mr. Simmons asked if the study session should be taken off the calendar. Ms. Luke stated that the September date can be the date of the Board retreat since everyone can attend.
- xli. Ms. Luke noted that she is doing a study with Ms. Liz Coleman and other staff members on what other library systems are doing in regard to security and any other topics that the Board members would like to discuss. Ms. Luke asked the NPL Board to share topics they would like included for the Board retreat. Mr. Rand and Ms. Searcy shared technology and security as topics of interest.

- xlii. Ms. Luke added that she is having monthly meetings with Ms. Susan Drye, Ms. Sherry Adams, and Mr. Mark Crowder to begin planning a Safety and Security Summit using some of the \$40,000 of NPLF training funds, which will include a keynote speaker and breakout sessions.

IX. Adjournment

- a. The meeting was adjourned at 1:26 PM.

Next Scheduled Board of Trustees Meeting

September 17, 2024

Goodlettsville Branch Library

205 Rivergate Parkway

Goodlettsville, TN 37072

12:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by Miryam Rose.