



Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2017

The Charleston County Library Board of Trustees met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 8:00am in the auditorium of the Main Library, 68 Calhoun Street, Charleston, SC.

Board members present were Mr. Brack, Mr. Fava, Ms. Crosby, Mr. Strother, Ms. Hollinshead, Ms. Strunk and Ms. Nesbitt. Board members absent were Mr. Norris, Ms. Reider and Mr. Clem. Staff members present were Nicolle Davies, Perry Litchfield, Toni Pattison, Darlene Jackson, Jim McQueen and Heather Kiessling. Also present were Brittany Mathis, representing the Friends of the Library, Herbert Sass of Charleston County Council, and Janette Alexander of Charleston County.

Mr. Brack called the meeting to order and confirmed that the media had been informed of the meeting and its agenda according to the Freedom of Information Act.

Board Comment

Ms. Hollinshead welcomed everyone to the meeting, as the public attendance was higher than usual. Mr. Brack said that they are experimenting with a morning meeting.

Public Comment

Mr. Brack opened the floor for public comments and explained the process of submitting a public comment. He encouraged everyone to send further comments to the board chair by email.

Lin Jay said that she was attending in support of the library and what the library does. She explained her background and said that she has complete trust in the librarians for choosing and displaying books.

April Borkman said that she has been a teen pregnancy prevention specialist for over ten years and she appreciates what the library does. She said that she supports the library and free speech.

Minde Herbert said that she visits the library frequently with her twin children. She said that Ms. Jackson met with her group with open ears and praised her for her accommodation. Ms. Herbert said that she does not want the books to be banned, just less noticeable as she believes the content is not appropriate for all ages in the teen area.

Deborah Davis Barrett said that she is here in support of the library on Grimball Road. She

explained her background growing up on James Island. Ms. Barrett explained the history behind Nan Baxter and Anna Patrick, two educators who taught at the former school located at the new James Island site. She suggested that the new James Island library be named for those two women as the library will sit on the former site of that school.

Ronald Ladson said that he is also in support of Ms. Barrett's suggestion that the new James Island library be named after Ms. Baxter and Ms. Patrick. He also said that he would like to suggest a portrait of Charleston County Councilwoman Anna Johnson be positioned in the library in honor of her work in getting the library.

Eugene Frasier said that he was born and raised on James Island and gave some information on his background. He said that Anna Patrick and Nan Baxter were the first African-American teachers on James Island and he is in support of naming the library after them.

Geraldine Frasier Mentor introduced herself and said she attended Baxter Patrick Elementary School. She asked the board to keep the name Baxter Patrick alive through the library.

Additions or Corrections to the Agenda

There were none.

Review of Minutes

The minutes were approved as written.

Friends of the Library Update

Ms. Mathis provided an update on the Friends of the Library. She said that the Books for Beer event had more than 170 people in attendance and raised more than \$2,100 through the silent auction.

The pop-up book sales will continue throughout April and there will be a one-day pop-up sale at the Mt. Pleasant library on April 28. The June book sale will be at Main from June 23-25. More information will be in the newsletter.

St. Paul's Design Presentation

Shawn Mellin from Glick-Boehm and Associates spoke on the schematic design of the new St. Paul's library. Mr. Mellin explained where the site is situated and the size and orientation of the site. He explained the different areas of parking and pointed out the designated green space. He displayed an image of the proposed floor plan of the library and explained the different areas. Mr. Mellin said that they chose the design to be more traditional in fitting with the St. Paul's community. He stressed the design elements of natural light and Lowcountry style.

Mr. Brack pointed out a few key features of the location of the building and reminded everyone that the new library will be significantly larger than the current building. Mr. Brack said that the library should be finished at the end of 2018 and should provide a good sense of community space.

Mr. Brack gave some background to the audience about the building design projects. He said that the Hollywood community meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 8 at 7:00pm at Ellington Elementary.

Library Naming

Mr. Brack said that the library has a naming policy and explained some of the key features of the policy. He also said that the library board does not name the libraries; the board makes recommendations to County Council, who has the final word. Mr. Brack explained the need to finalize names for the libraries in order to proceed with ordering and processing the collection for those libraries.

Mr. Brack said that the board voted on recommended names a couple years ago; he went over the suggested names that the board decided on previously. Ms. Hollinshead said that she wants to change the name of Cooper River to Pinehaven. Mr. Fava said that he is concerned about other facilities that may be built near the proposed Pinehaven site. Mr. Brack said that it would not hurt to continue to refer to it as Cooper River instead of Pinehaven. The board decided to continue to call the new site Cooper River. Mr. Brack said that the new James Island library is replacing the existing James Island site.

Ms. Strunk said that it is typical for a library to be named for its geographical site. She said that she thinks the should keep it as James Island, but be open to call it something else in the future. Mr. Fava said that he liked the name West James Island to differentiate it from the existing site in case it is kept open. Ms. Nesbitt said that she would like to recommend that the Baxter-Patrick name be added to the list of future possibilities for the James Island library.

Mr. Brack said that the possible name list includes: Stono River, Evergreen, Baxter Patrick, Signal Point, and West James Island. He said that they will continue to call it the James Island Library for the purposes of ordering books. Mr. Strother said that he would like the Baxter Patrick name to be sent as a possible recommendation to County Council.

Ms. Davies said that the intent is to narrow the names down to one name for each branch to send to County Council as a recommendation.

Mr. Sass said that County Council will consider the names the library submits and that there is no plan to keep the current James Island site open once the new site opens.

Mr. Brack said that a decision must be made about naming James Island. Mr. Sass said that he likes that the library name reflects the geographical location. He said that Ms. Baxter and Ms. Patrick should perhaps be remembered in a school setting.

Mr. Strother moved that the James Island library be called James Island Baxter Patrick Library. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nesbitt. The motion passed with four in favor and three opposed.

Mr. Fava asked what the support services building will be called. Ms. Davies said that the building will be CCPL Support Services or something similar.

Ms. Crosby asked when the recommendations will be sent to County Council. Ms. Davies

said that the names will be sent to Council in the next few weeks.

Approval of Coastal Community Foundation Request

Ms. Davies said that the library has a foundation account with the Coastal Community Foundation and that they are requesting money from that account. The request needs approval from the library board and the Friends board to submit to the Foundation.

Mr. Fava moved for approval, seconded by Mr. Strother. The motion passed unanimously.

Library Reports

Ms. Davies went over the library report. They are in the process of reviewing the budget and the library will be conducting leadership training with Cheryl Gould for twenty hand-selected library staff members. She also mentioned the Summer Feeding program that the library is participating in system-wide to help feed children throughout the summer.

Committee Reports

- a. Finance
There was no official report. The committee will be meeting on May 10 at 10:00am to review the proposed FY18 budget.
- b. Nominations
There was no report.
- c. Future and Strategic Planning
Ms. Hollinshead said that they are meeting with Curtis Rogers from the State Library to start setting strategic goals on May 20 at 8:00am at the Main library.
- d. Building
Mr. Fava said that he met with County staff to look at a proposed reporting format to track costs for the library projects. He said that the staff developed a good format and a financial sheet illustrating the budget progress should be available at the next board meeting. He said that they must be careful not to overspend on the new facilities and have nothing left to renovate the existing libraries.

Adjournment

Before adjourning, Mr. Brack went over the documents that the board was given, including the capital plan update provided by Ms. Pattison. Mr. Brack said that he would like to emphasize that the library board would like the new Cooper River site to be a separate building.

Mr. Strother asked how many minority or women-owned businesses have been a part of the building process. Mr. Walt Smalls from Charleston County said that the information should be

available at the next board meeting. He also said that they are tracking the financials closely and are trying to keep the money spent on the new buildings to the original amount to leave plenty of funds to renovate the other libraries.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11am.

Respectfully submitted,

Maya Hollinshead, Secretary