

BLOOMINGTON PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Tuesday, September 19, 2017  
5:30 p.m.

William C. Wetzel Reading Room  
205 E. Olive Street, Bloomington, IL 61701

**Minutes**

- I. Call to Order  
President Cardona called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.
- II. Roll Call  
MEMBERS PRESENT: Alicia Henry, Kiasha Henry, Dianne Hollister, Susan Mohr, Mike Raikes, Alicia Whitworth, Alex Cardona  
  
MEMBERS ABSENT: Van Miller, Julian Westerhout  
  
OTHERS PRESENT: Justin Boyd, Amelia Buragas, Jeanne Hamilton, Kathy Jeakins, Mike McCurdy, Maria Nagle, Stephen Peterson, Caprice Prochnow, Isabella Rodriguez, Isaac Thorne, Carol Torrens
- III. Introduction of Public  
President Cardona asked the guests to introduce themselves.
- IV. Public Comment  
There were no public comments.
- V. Special Presentation by David Hales, City Manager on the City Budget  
David Hales was unable to attend the meeting. This will be tabled until another representative from the City is available to discuss the City Budget.  
President Cardona reviewed information from the City's September Retreat. He identified the specific priorities that the City is looking at, which are economic development, infrastructure, financial planning, emergency response time, and the downtown implementation plan.  
President Cardona shared that at last night's City Committee of the Whole meeting, there was a lot of good discussion on infrastructure and the Capital Improvement Plan.  
Director Hamilton stated that State law dictates that as a City Library, there must be City Council approval for any kind of financing, the tax levy, etc. She continued by saying that the Library's Annual Budget is due in October, the levy is due in December, so the Library would present to the Council between October and December. Director Hamilton shared that she anticipates that with this year's budget, a potential building project will have to be considered when preparing the annual budget.

Both President Cardona and Director Hamilton encouraged the Trustees to look at pages 82 and 83 of the City's General Obligation Bond Schedule depicting all the bonds that are out there now, and specifically the ones that will be falling off in a few years, and how the Library plays into this.

VI. Special Presentation by the Downtown Task Force

Amelia Buragas shared that the Downtown Task Force was established earlier this year, by the City Council, at the Mayor's request, to specifically look at, but not reinvent, the past work in Downtown. She went on to say that their main task is to at the existing planning documents, and to come up with a strategy for the next 3 to 5 years to make a meaningful impact on the downtown area. Amelia shared that most of the Task Force discussions have been focused on easy to achieve projects that will have a big impact on the downtown, and that will improve the walkability, beautification, feeling safe, and those types of qualities in the downtown area.

She went on to say that more recently, the Committee has moved into the next phase, based on the planning documents, which is the notion that a catalyst project is needed for the downtown area.

Justin Boyd shared that only one Task Force meeting has occurred with discussion on this catalyst project, and that the reason why the Library was brought up as moving to the downtown area, is because this was in the Farr Plan. He went on to say that the committee received a presentation from City Staff with possible catalyst projects for downtown, and the Library was mentioned as one of the projects. Justin shared that the discussion took off from there, as having the Library in the downtown area was the least amount of risk for the City, rather than a grocery store or a museum, as you know that the Library is successful. With the number of people that come to the Library every day, they know that a 1,000 people will be coming into downtown every day. Justin stated that the City has a long wish list, and if some of that could be consolidated with having the Library combined with parking and Connect Transit in the downtown area. He went on to say that all of this is very exciting, and he would like to continue discussion in this direction, and get the Board's input along with input from other interested parties, and come up with a really good plan to present to City Council.

Amelia Buragas shared that in relation to the Capital Improvement Plan for the next 5 years, the City has more than \$200,000,000 in unfunded projects, and City Council has not yet prioritized them. She went on to say that the Task Force does not want to make recommendations to Council that are not feasible, so there is intrigue with combining projects that are more feasible. Amelia continued by saying that a good partnership for the Library would be Connect Transit, as they have a profound need for a new transfer station. She went on to say that partnering with Connect Transit is appealing, as they are able to apply for Federal Grants and low interest loans. Amelia finished by saying that there was a misconception that parking would be taken away with this project, but this is not so, parking will be included.

Mike McCurdy, Chairman of Connect Transit Board of Trustees, stated that with Connect Transit having access to federal funds, they have the opportunity to possibly build the foundation of this building. He went on to say that with a transfer center on the ground floor, that will be the bottom four walls and the infrastructure that it takes to get the buses in and out of that building. Mike shared that Connect Transit has wanted transfer station in downtown Bloomington for years. He went on to say that

in Normal, the transfer station building contains City offices, Council meeting space and such, and in downtown Bloomington, it could certainly be a Library. Mike stated that transfer stations partnering with libraries is nothing new, and shared that Davenport, IA is an example as well as ones in Seattle, WA, and in Maryland.

Isaac Thorne, Connect Transit Interim General Manager shared that there is a lot of funding that can be applied for to help with this project. He went on to say that 75% of the rides they provide are for their customers to earn money or spend money in this community, so they would be bringing 1,300 people a day to the Library every day for a bus transfer or to actually go through the doors of the Library. Isaac shared that a total of 8 different buses would use the transfer center, and they could all arrive at the same time. Currently, the bus routes must be offset, as it is not feasible for them to be present at the same time, which causes a timing issue.

Director Hamilton asked the question of the Task Force reps as to whether the Library could be a catalyst project at its current location. Amelia Buragas stated that since the focus of the Task Force was to develop the downtown area, starting in the core, and moving outwards, that this would not be possible. Director Hamilton then asked the Connect Transit reps, if the transfer station collaboration could happen at its current location. Isaac Thorne stated that a transfer station at its current location would be very difficult. He went on to say that the steepness of the hill that the Library sits on would be physically challenging for some of the bus riders. Along with this, they would still need to go through downtown, so essentially this would add to ride times, rather than reduce it.

The presenters entertained questions.

VII. Consent Agenda

A. Recommend Approval of Minutes of August 15, 2017 Regular BPL Board Meeting

B. Recommend Approval of Bills List of August 2017

**KIASHA HENRY MOVED, MIKE RAIKES SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE  
    CONSENT AGENDA WITH THE EMENDATION TO AGENDA ITEM XII.A.  
    OF THE MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. President's Report

President Cardona talked a little bit about Board development. Alex stated that the first piece of Board development is collaboration, and as a Board they need to continue to communicate with each other, City Council, other Boards and Commissions, and other potential partners, such as the Downtown Task Force and Connect Transit. Along with this, he encouraged the Trustees to increase their knowledge base of the Library, of the City, so that the Board can make really sound decisions. Alex stated that the second piece of Board development is to set strategic direction and policy for the Library, to figure out where the Library should be in 5, 10 or 20 years, as a lot of decisions being made now, will set the Library down one path or another. He went on to say that one of the things the Board needs to help staff with is making sure that the Board is reviewing, and also assisting the Library to succeed. President Cardona stated that the Board should be thinking strategically on how the Foundation Board used, and how to grow the Library staff, without having to look at our taxpayer base, and possibly consider fundraising.

President Cardona stated that some kind of resolution to the Library expansion is needed.

VIII. Director's Report

Director Hamilton shared that Request for Proposals will be released soon for both the self-check station replacement and the insurance for the Library. Once these are received, they will be brought before the Board for approval.

Director Hamilton shared that Laura Golaszewski is leaving the Library and going to Normal Public Library to be their new Community Engagement Manager. She went on to say that she will be filling the role of Interim Circulation & Outreach Manager until someone is hired to replace Laura.

Director Hamilton reviewed that the Board had previously decided that they would come to the Library and review hard copies of the Executive Session minutes, and that there should be a batch of minutes for them to review prior to the next Board meeting in October. She went on to say, that there is a binder containing the minutes, and Gayle Tucker, Human Resources Manager, will be the person to contact to make an appointment to come to the Library and review the minutes.

Director Hamilton asked that the Budget & Personnel Committee meeting be held on October 10 rather than October 3, so there will be more time to prepare the budgets for consideration. She went on to say that typically one Maintenance & Operating Budget is presented to the committee, but this year, they can present a few different ones, depicting varying tax levy increases.

There was much discussion on the tax levy, presenting to Council, and how the Library will fit into the City's Capital Improvement Plan.

IX. Fiscal Report Presented by Kathy Jeakins, Business Manager

Kathy Jeakins reported that a Property Tax Distribution was received in August, and two more were received in September, which will be reflected in next month's report. This brings us to 97% in Revenues. One more small tax distribution will be received in late November or early December.

She entertained questions.

X. New Business

A. Recommend Approval of Intergovernmental Agreement with Bloomington School District 87

Director Hamilton shared that District 87 School Board approved this on Wednesday, and this is really solidifying the relationship that the Library has District 87 and the Student Card Project, allowing us to have a document that protects us with the sharing of information back and forth.

MIKE RAIKES MOVED, DIANNE HOLLISTER SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH BLOOMINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT 87. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

XI. Old Business

A. Discussion on Library Expansion

President Cardona shared that he and Director Hamilton have continued with meetings with key players. He stated that the City really needs to come to the Library with a fleshed-out proposal, and until something comes from the City, the focus will continue to be to expand here at our current location.

Director Hamilton shared that before the City reveals the prioritization list, she and President Cardona will be having a discussion with City Staff. There was much discussion on what was presented this evening, and what may be next for the Library.

XII. Comments from Board Trustees

Susan Mohr shared that when the Joint Committee was held in June, the Market Street option had not been presented, and she has not yet made up her mind as to which location she prefers. She also shared that she would like to see a plan in place for some fundraising.

President Cardona shared that Karen Schmidt has stated that the Council is open to another Joint Committee meeting with the Library Board if they are interested. He stated that since there is nothing to take to them at this time, a meeting will not be set now.

Dianne Hollister stated that she was very surprised with the Market Street proposal as it differs so much from what was discussed at the Joint Committee about remaining in this location.

XIII. Adjournment

KIASHA HENRY MOVED, ALICIA WHITWORTH SECONDED, TO  
ADJOURN THE MEETING. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

President Cardona adjourned the meeting at 7:30 p.m.