

REVISED AGENDA
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806
MAY 21, 2009
4:00 P.M.

- I. ROLL CALL

- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF MAY 2, 2009 AND MAY 3, 2009

- III. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

- IV. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR
 - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
 - B. SYSTEM REPORT
 - C. OTHER REPORTS

- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. REPORT ON DESIGN WORK FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY – MR. STEVE JACKSON, MR. KEN TIPTON AND BREC REPRESENTATIVES
 - B. REPORT ON ROUZAN DEVELOPMENT – MR. TOMMY SPINOSA - JTS REALTY SERVICES, LLC
 - C. REPORT ON FINDINGS OF AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE STUDY OF THE APPLICATION OF A BOOKMOBILE FOR COMMUNITY OUTREACH – MR. STAN BARDWELL

- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW LIBRARY BOARD MEMBER – MS. KIZZY PAYTON
 - B. PRESENTATION OF PROPOSED 2010 LIBRARY BUDGET
 - C. NEW BRANCH FOR BURBANK AREA – MR. DON BROWNING
 - D. CHILDREN’S SERVICES – MS. PABBY ARNOLD

- VII. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

THE PUBLIC IS ALLOWED TO MAKE COMMENTS RELATIVE TO AN AGENDA ITEM AT THE DISCRETION OF THE LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT. ANY COMMENTS NOT RELATED TO AN AGENDA ITEM MAY BE RECEIVED AND DISCUSSED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE MEETING UNDER PROCEDURES DIRECTED BY THE LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT.

Revised Minutes of the Meeting of the
East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control

May 21, 2009

The regular monthly meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held in the Auditorium of the Main Library on Thursday, May 21, 2009. Mr. Dan Reed, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mr. Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr., Mr. Donald Browning, Ms. Tanya Freeman, Mr. Jamie Griffin, Ms. Kizzy A. Payton and Mrs. Elizabeth Tomlinson. Also in attendance were Mr. David Farrar, Library Director; Ms. Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director of Administration; Ms. Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director of Branch Services; Ms. Pabby Arnold, Division Head of Children's Services; Ms. Rhonda Pinsonat, Assistant Library Business Manager; Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; Ms. Claire Delaune, Public Relations Specialist with the Library; Ms. Nikki Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office; and Metropolitan Councilman Ulysses "Bones" Addison of District 2. From The Library Design Collaborative were Mr. Steve Jackson, and Mr. Ken Tipton. Mr. Bill Palmer, Superintendent of BREC and Mr. Ted Jack, Landscape Architect with BREC were also present. Representing JTS Realty Services, LLC at this meeting were Mr. Tommy Spinoso; Mr. Grant Conway, and Mr. Trey Cloud, attorney with Walker Jones, LLP. Also present were Mrs. Jenola Duke, Chair of the Education Team for the Children's Coalition of Greater Baton Rouge; and Ms. Patience Travassos, Preschool Resource Coordinator for the East Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools. Several Library staff members, 29 members of the community and Ms. Chante Warren, reporter with *The Advocate* were also in attendance.

The minutes of the regular meetings of the Library Board on May 2, 2009 and May 3, 2009 were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Freeman and seconded by Mr. Bardwell.

Election of Vice President of Library Board of Control

Mr. Reed noted that Mrs. Katherine Auer was the Vice President of the Library Board until her term ended on May 16, 2009. Therefore, the Board needed to elect a new Vice President, so he opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Griffin nominated Ms. Freeman and Mr. Browning seconded the motion. Mrs. Tomlinson said with due respect to Ms. Freeman that her experience with other boards was that in order to be elected as an officer, the board member was required to serve on that board for at least one year. She did not know if this requirement was written in the Library Board bylaws, but she nominated Mr. Bardwell. Mr. Bardwell declined the nomination. Since, there were no other nominations, Mr. Reed closed the nominations. The Board elected Ms. Freeman.

Reports by the Director

Mr. Reed then asked Mr. Farrar to present his financial and system reports. Mr. Farrar asked Ms. Pinsonat to give the financial report. She told the Board that the Cash Collections report which was not available for last month's financial report is attached. The total cash received on property taxes and interest as of May 11, 2009 is \$32,283,316.79. Mr. Reed asked why only about 12% of the employee benefits have been paid thus far this year to which Ms. Pinsonat said

that the City-Parish Accounting Division has not posted all of the disbursements to date. Mr. Farrar said the system reports included statistics for April 2009 for Circulation, Gate Count, Reference Questions Answered, Database Usage and Programming for January through March 2009. Mr. Farrar told the Board that the upgraded Integrated Library System (ILS) will be available for patron access on July 27, 2009. Mr. Farrar said that he received a letter from Ms. Beth Courtney, President of Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB), stating that LPB is proud to work with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library in conjunction with their *Raising Readers* project. Project partners in education and business work with LPB to build a foundation in literacy at the earliest ages. Mr. Farrar concluded his remarks by proudly displaying a plaque from the United Way. The employees of the Library received a Superstar Award for growth in participation in the United Way campaign of 2008.

Mr. Farrar informed the Board about maintenance at the various branches. A new roof is being installed at the Baker Branch Library, and work on the catch basins at the Jones Creek Regional Branch Library is finished. Flooring is the next project at the Jones Creek Branch.

Old Business

A. Report on Design Work for New Main Library – Mr. Steve Jackson, Mr. Ken Tipton and BREC Representatives

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Jackson and Mr. Tipton to address the Board regarding the design work for the new Main Library. Mr. Jackson said that as a result of the special Board meetings on May 2 and May 3, 2009, they revised the design of the parking area by moving it closer to the building entrance, and adding 33 parking spaces. They redistributed the handicapped parking so that the furthest space is 270 feet from the entrance. They added a covered drop off and pick up for patrons and a drive through for picking up and returning books. Some of the square footage of Thought Square (the plaza) was decreased to enable vehicles to get in and out more quickly.

Mr. Jackson said that they spoke with Mr. Bill Palmer, superintendent of BREC and Mr. Ted Jack, Landscape Architect with BREC about these design changes. Mr. Palmer and Mr. Jack were concerned about vehicles coming into the space designed for people. The architects revised the design of May 3, 2009 after the discussion with BREC officials and distributed copies of this revision to the Board. This latest change moves handicapped parking closer to the building with only one covered drop off area in the center. There are walkways and ramps for the handicapped to enter the building and the cybercafé. The cistern has been moved from the Children's Services area into Thought Square. Mr. Reed asked if the six handicapped parking spaces on the left side of the parking lot are as close to the building as in the prior design to which Mr. Jackson answered yes. Mr. Jackson continued that in this new design there is a decrease of thirty parking spaces for a total of 330 spaces. The added room can now accommodate a buffer of trees. Mr. Reed replied that they had covered walkways planned in the older design to which Mr. Jackson said that the covered walkway detracted from the park. But the buffer of trees adds to the park experience. Mr. Tipton clarified that in the former design, there were two covered walkways which have now been eliminated.

Mr. Bardwell said that the purpose of the weekend meetings was to re-design the entrance to make it more accessible to vehicle drop-off. But he noted that with this new design there is no connected overhang to the front door. Ms. Toepfro, a member of the community, said in this new design many features for the handicapped patrons have been deleted.

Mr. Reed said that they must work with BREC because BREC is the landowner in the park. BREC has a voice in this design. On May 3, 2009 the Board addressed its concerns and now Mr. Reed asked Mr. Palmer to speak about BREC's desires. Mr. Palmer said that Mr. Tipton and Mr. Jackson are also members of BREC's design team and they are good designers. He noted that three years ago he and former Library Director Lydia Acosta talked about the concept of a library in the park. They both agreed to compromise so that the citizens of the parish could have something unique in Independence Park. Mr. Palmer continued that the first change they envisioned was to remove the fence that separates the Library and the Park. Then they worked through the size of the library. Mr. Palmer said that the key to the success of this project is how the elements of the park and the library are joined together. Thought Square is not a patio, but a place where people can visit and talk. It's the entrance to the Library and the Botanical Gardens. Mr. Palmer said he is sensitive about making the automobile more important than the gallery space.

Ms. Toepfro, a member of the public, asked if the handicapped would have access to the park because currently the handicapped cannot use the park. Mr. Palmer replied that no one element will overtake another. He said he needs to work a bit more with the designers and with Mr. Farrar before he presents the design to the BREC Commissioners.

Mr. Bardwell said that that everyone is excited about sharing the park. He added that on May 2nd the Library Board asked the architects to design a drop off for people as well as books. He asked why that request presents a problem for BREC. Mr. Palmer replied that with the additional drop-off for people moving autos are encroaching on the people space and the park. The people in that space create the energy for what is going on. It should be an active space such that library functions can come outside. The Library staff can conduct programs in the Park. Mr. Palmer added that the Board can blame this conflict of ideas on him. He said he needs just a little more time to work on the concepts in order to have a comfort level with the design. He noted that the designers have done a great job thus far and he wants to continue working well with the Library staff.

Both Mr. Reed and Mr. Farrar thanked Mr. Palmer for his time and comments. Mr. Reed said they thought it would be great to move the covered access for patrons. But they do have a covered book drop which can also be used to drop off people, too. Mr. Palmer replied that they need to ensure that Thought Square is an extension of the Library and a part of the Park. Mr. Reed added that Thought Square is like the foyer of the Library. Mr. Browning said that at the March Board meeting at the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Library he said that the handicapped parking was too far away from the entrance to the library. The parking for the handicapped is still not acceptable. He said they need to have a drop off place especially in the rain and if they cannot do this, shame on them.

Mr. Griffin said that as a member of the Library Board, it is really hard to tell a handicapped person that they cannot help them park closer to the building. However, he said they must deal with reality. He asked if they were being disingenuous to the handicapped. He asked how far do they have to go to accommodate and what is a reasonable amount of assistance. Mr. Griffin concluded that they are being reasonable and he is pleased with the process and the design.

Mr. John Berry, a member of the community, thanked Mr. Palmer for his work and support of the Library in the Park concept. He suggested that the ten handicapped parking spaces on the right side of the covered drop off be moved to the left side and that a translucent or transparent covered walkway could be built.

Ms. Freeman asked Mr. Palmer if he would be ready to endorse the design of the parking lot and Thought Square by the next Board meeting. Ms. Freeman asked Mr. Palmer to be flexible and to be sure that the final design serves everyone. Mr. Farrar said that he and Mr. Palmer are very close to an agreement and that they will probably be ready to report to the Board at the next meeting. Mr. Reed said that the cooperative endeavor agreement which will stipulate the responsibilities and the sharing of services and areas of the Library and BREC needs to be completed. Mr. Bardwell added that in the official minutes of May 3, 2009, the Board approved the revised designs that the architects presented. But as a result of this meeting the architects cannot move forward with these revised designs.

Mr. Tipton suggested that they discuss the recommended non-programmed scope and recommended scope for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification. Mr. Tipton said they believe that they can attain gold LEED certification. Mr. Reed agreed that they should discuss these items at this meeting. The architects gave the Board a document with the items for discussion with their recommendations noted. The following was discussed:

- **Dual Skin System**-As a result of further investigation, this feature is not appropriate for the climate in Baton Rouge. The additional cost for this feature would have added \$750,000 to the cost of the building.
- **Green Screens (x2)**-The recommendation was to explore this feature for the south side of the building and to omit it on the north side at an additional cost of \$200,000.
- **Smoke Evacuation System**-It is not required and was, therefore deleted.
- **Additional Elevator**-This was a Board and staff request at \$108,000.
- **Additional Generator Capacity (Entire Building)**-Further discussions will be necessary. The cost is \$250,000.
- **Uninterrupted Power Source (UPS) System**-This system provides a clean power source when electrical current goes up and down prior to going on generator power in the case of electrical failure. Mr. Farrar asked Ms. Elizabeth Myers, Head of the Library's Computer Division if the Library currently has a UPS system. She replied that there is one for the servers, but not for individual computers. Mr. Jackson said usually a UPS system is installed on critical computers so that they remain on. A generator would be used to power critical parts of the building. In the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, the need for a generator was very apparent at the Main Library. Ms. Freeman asked if they were thinking realistically for the future in regard to the generator. Mr. Tipton noted that the

new building design will allow for natural light. The cost for the UPS System is \$175,000 and has not been included.

- **Lightning Protection System**-This feature protects in the event of a lightning strike. The architects noted that the new building will be the tallest structure in the area. A final decision on this feature can be made at a later time. The cost is \$95,000.
- **Roof Terrace with Pavers**-This feature is a green roof with plants allowing people to utilize the space. The cost is \$109,000.
- **Western Solar Screen, North Courtyard, Children's Courtyard**-The western solar screen has been deleted from the design. The Children's Courtyard has been deleted for noise and safety concerns. The North Courtyard will be included at a cost of \$224,000.

The architects then discussed the recommended scope for LEED certification. In order to obtain a LEED certification the building will need to be commissioned. A commissioner is a LEED expert, independent of the project team, who reviews the design features to confirm LEED compliance. Certification is based on a point system assigned for each LEED feature. With the current features the building would receive 28 points.

The features necessary for a silver LEED certification were then discussed. A raised flooring system provides complete flexibility because all data, electric, and heating/cooling utilities are under the floor. Mr. Tipton said that this feature provides energy savings. However, issues like water intrusion will need to be studied and resolved. Mr. Tim Bankston, Library Facilities Manager, has concerns with raised flooring based on problems encountered at the Eden Park Branch Library. Mr. Reed said that the advantage of the raised floor is that heating and cooling comes from the floor where people are as opposed to coming from the ceiling. Besides the energy benefits, this feature enables flexibility when moving collections. The raised flooring would be designed for the first and second floor where the public collections will be located. Mr. Farrar asked about concerns with "lumpy" flooring and air quality to which Mr. Tipton said they would need to resolve these issues before proceeding with this feature. Mr. Bardwell said he would like to see the actual cost savings before approving it for the new building.

Mrs. Tomlinson clarified that the total number of points for the various LEED features chosen for a given building determines the silver or gold designation. One can pick and choose the features one desires. Mr. Jackson said that they should find the right combination of what will work for this building and not just look at a certain certification level. Mr. Bardwell asked how the certification is decided to which Mr. Tipton said it is based on assigned points for each feature. Mr. Reed commented that fill dirt could be used under the building if they do not choose a raised floor.

A member of the public who said she works with LEED issues asked why they can't just design a "green" building without obtaining a LEED certification. She noted that since this will be a public building, there will be no tax incentive to obtain certification. She said she supports a sustainable library building, but does not feel the expense of hiring a commissioning agent for LEED certification is warranted. Mr. Farrar replied that in his meeting with Mayor Holden, the mayor asked him to design this building with a LEED certification. Ms. Stein added that at library conferences about sustainable construction, the recommendation is for LEED certification

of library buildings as a means of ensuring quality and actual sustainable features. Mr. Reed said the purpose of the commissioning agent is to verify that the building is in fact green.

The architects continued to discuss LEED features. It was noted that the cistern was moved from the Children's Services area to Thought Square. The cistern would be part of the rainwater management system. To encourage less automobile usage and to foster alternative transportation such as the use of bikes by the staff to get to and from work, showers and changing rooms could be added to the design. A photovoltaic solar energy system would generate on-site electricity. Mr. Tipton said they were reviewing these features so that the Board can decide on the options they want.

Ms. Freeman said she wants more research done on these options. Mr. Bardwell said they need to see figures that show the length of time before a payback is realized for the added expense of these features. Mr. Reed added that for some of these features, one cannot put a dollar amount on them. Mr. Jackson replied that it is about stewardship in a public building. Mr. Farrar said that since it is a public building, these features would say that this is important to the citizens of the community. A member of the community said that Baton Rouge is losing young people because as a community we look at current dollar values without considering the future. She said we need to change our thinking to attract the young and encourage them to stay here rather than move away. Mr. Farrar said that the issue of sustainability has been discussed since the beginning.

B. Report on Rouzan Development – Mr. Tommy Spinosa – JTS Realty Services, LLC

Mr. Reed opened the discussion about the branch library in the Rouzan development. Mr. Trey Cloud, attorney with Jones Walker, LLP, and attorney for JTS Realty, reported that the only fee that the Library will be assessed is the maintenance fee. All issues concerning the governance documents have been resolved. Mr. Bardwell said that the Library will have the same voting rights as other non-residential members of the association. A tentative schedule of construction was distributed and reviewed. Mr. Browning said he wants the word tentative removed from the title of the document to which Mr. Spinosa said that will be done. Mr. Spinosa added that the developers who will construct the infrastructure have added the Library as an additional insured on their performance bond.

Mr. Bardwell then made a motion that the Library Board accepts the governance documents as revised by Mr. William A. "Bushy" Aaron of the Parish Attorney's Office. Mr. Reed seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Mr. Berry said that he doesn't think that the developers will hold to the schedule for the construction of the branch library in Rouzan based on their past performance. He is concerned that in December 2009 the donated site for a library on Burbank Drive will expire. Then the citizens in the southern portion of the parish will still not have a branch library. He also mentioned an article in the current issue of the *Greater Baton Rouge Business Report* citing problems at Perkins Rowe which was developed by JTS Realty Services and which might impact

the development of Rouzan. Mr. Browning replied that he is trying to save the Burbank site for the Library and that it is an agenda item for this meeting.

C. Report on Findings of Ad Hoc Committee for the Study of the Application of a Bookmobile for Community Outreach – Mr. Stan Bardwell

At the April meeting of the Library Board Mr. Reed created an ad hoc committee to study the issues involved in providing outreach services to underserved children in the community. The committee was asked to report their findings and recommendations to the full Library Board. The ad hoc committee consisted of Mr. Bardwell, Chairman of the committee, Ms. Freeman, Ms. Patricia Husband, Mrs. Stein, Mrs. Jenola Duke and Ms. Patience Travasos.

Mr. Bardwell addressed the Board on the committee's findings. He said all of the committee members did an outstanding job reporting the results of their research at the three meetings that were held. A packet of information was given to the Board summarizing the findings. Mr. Bardwell said they adopted a statement of purpose and then researched the literacy problem in the parish looking for solutions that would prompt literacy. He said they communicated with groups that work with children and got their ideas on how the Library could assist them with outreach efforts. There is a group of children in the community who are not served by the branch library system.

Ms. Freeman then used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight to the Board the issues affecting literacy, the results of low literacy and the proposed solutions to this issue in East Baton Rouge Parish. Ms. Freeman quoted Mr. Hillar Moore who spoke at a recent Rotary Club meeting. Mr. Moore said that Louisiana has the highest drop-out rate in the nation. Ms. Freeman cited several key points as follows:

- In order to be ready for school children need at least 2,500 hours of exposure to reading.
- Prisons are built based partly on third graders' reading levels.
- The adult illiteracy rate in Baton Rouge is now 27%.

Ms. Freeman noted that many day care facilities do not have reading materials. For many families transportation to a branch library is an issue. Mobile outreach through bookmobiles and vans is a way to reach these underserved children. This type of outreach would provide an experience for these children.

Mr. Bardwell referred the Board to a spreadsheet which detailed the cost of the vehicles, the materials and the staffing. He said the committee recommends three different size vehicles for mobile outreach; those being a minivan, a maxivan and a 37-foot bookmobile. He noted that these vehicles would contribute to fulfilling the mission of the Library. The minivan could be used to transport materials to day care centers, the maxivan could transport materials to bigger facilities and parades, and the bookmobile could stop at sites and provide activities in the bookmobile itself. He said the aim would be to reach those that don't come to the library. He said the stories he heard such as they didn't know the Library was a free service were surprising.

Mrs. Duke said she enjoyed serving on the committee. She added that what happens to children from birth to age five is critical and if the Library can reach these young children, they can begin addressing the illiteracy problem.

Mr. Reed asked several questions such as where would the vehicles go, how often and how would sites be chosen. Ms. Arnold, Head of the Children's Services Division, said in the area there are about fifty day care centers with six to eight children. She added that there are established criteria to determine eligibility for these outreach services. Ms. Arnold also noted that the Library staff could train the staff at the day care centers in how to foster literacy. Mr. Reed asked if the staff at these centers read to the children to which Ms. Freeman said no. She added that the children's vocabulary is very poor. Ms. Stein added that a regular schedule would be set up with a goal of visiting four to five sites per day. Mr. Reed said that this is a tremendous problem and he wondered if they could reach enough children. Mr. Bardwell cited a comment made by Ms. Stein to the effect that even helping one child is important to that child and does have a cumulative effect over time.

Ms. Freeman added that they could collaborate with other groups. Mr. Bardwell then mentioned the BREC Summer Day Camps as places where they could bring books. He asked Mr. Palmer about such collaboration to which Mr. Palmer was agreeable and said currently they have forty camps established.

Mr. Griffin said he liked the broad approach to the outreach concerns they expressed and he supported their recommendations. Mr. Griffin asked if the committee considered a kiosk to which Mr. Bardwell said they focused their attention on reaching young children. Ms. Freeman added that since transportation is an issue the kiosk would not address this population. Mr. Browning asked about opening the school libraries in conjunction with the lunch programs in the summer so that these children have access to reading materials. This solution would need to be addressed by the Board of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

Ms. Toepfro said this committee is teaching those present about the literacy issue. Mr. Farrar said he supports the conclusions of this committee. He said libraries are considered information sources, but they also need to be involved in literacy. Through this program the Library would provide literacy opportunities to children who otherwise would not have this exposure to reading.

Mr. Bardwell said the committee is also recommending that the 2009 Library budget be amended in order to purchase these vehicles this year. Councilman Addison asked about the cost of this program to which Mr. Bardwell replied \$800,000 total for the first year with the purchase of the vehicles as the smallest expense of the program in total. Mrs. Tomlinson asked if the request for a budget amendment would need to go before the Metropolitan Council to which Ms. Pinsonat said yes.

Mr. Griffin then called the question. Mr. Bardwell said that the committee recommends the purchase of a minivan, a maxivan and a 37-foot bookmobile along with materials and staffing to provide outreach services commencing with the purchase of the vehicles in 2009. The Board unanimously approved the recommendation of the ad hoc committee.

New Business

A. Welcome and Introduction of New Library Board Member – Ms. Kizzy Payton

Mr. Reed welcomed Ms. Kizzy A. Payton to the Library Board. She was appointed to replace Mrs. Katherine Auer by the Metropolitan Council on May 13, 2009. Mr. Reed asked Ms. Payton to introduce herself. Ms. Payton said that she is the Director of Public Information at the Louisiana Community and Technical College on Foster Drive. She holds a Masters of Arts in Mass Communications from Southern University. She has been active in many community organizations such as Forum 35, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, and the Capital Area United Way. Ms. Payton said that promoting literacy has always been important to her. She said she has always had a love for libraries and supports access to library services for all in the community.

B. Presentation of Proposed 2010 Library Budget

Mr. Farrar told the Board that today they have received a binder containing the proposed 2010 Library budget. He asked that they study these materials in preparation for the approval of the budget at the June 18, 2009 Board meeting. He said the budget includes a budget request summary which provides a detailed description of the overall budget request as well as justifications for personnel upgrades and new positions. The goals and accomplishments for 2008 are also contained in the Budget message. He added that included in the budget is a request for a salary increase for all library specific positions and for general operations. There are no capital improvement requests for 2010. Mr. Farrar said he will hold a special Board workshop at least a week before the regular Board meeting in June so that Board members can address their comments and questions to the staff. Ms. Zozulin will poll the Board for a mutually acceptable date and time which will be announced to the public.

Mr. Farrar noted that they are currently preparing a budget supplement for 2009 to fund the bookmobile, the Fairwood Branch and additional items for the Main Library.

C. New Branch for Burbank Area – Mr. Don Browning

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Browning to discuss his proposal for a new branch on Burbank Drive. Mr. Browning said he is not trying to stop the plans for the construction of a branch library in the Rouzan development. He said he would like to propose the construction of an additional small library building on Burbank for two reasons. He said this would save the donated property on Burbank from reverting back to the donors at the end of this year, and would provide a branch in an area that needs one. Mr. Browning then made a motion to construct a small branch library on the donated land located on Burbank Drive. Mr. Bardwell seconded the motion. Mr. Griffin said he supports a study by the Library staff of the cost to construct a branch library on Burbank Drive before they vote to plan for a branch there.

Ms. Tomlinson said that as a planner, in good conscience she must speak against the construction of a branch library on the Burbank site. She added that the Library Board needs to let the donation of this property expire. She said the property is in a flood plain and is like a bowl during rain events. Water flows there and provides a collection area for the excess water. As a wetlands site it is an important part of flood control. If a building is constructed there, the rainwater will collect elsewhere causing flash flooding. She said building there with the necessary infrastructure exacerbates sprawl. She added that this piece of property is the most expensive cheap property because it has legal ramifications for the Library Board and the City. If building there causes flooding elsewhere, the Library Board and the City can be sued. She added that floodplain mitigation cannot rectify the potential for flooding as well as nature can. She noted that by not building on the Burbank site they can be leaders and stewards for the environment.

Mr. Berry said that wetlands mitigation would pay for the measures to prevent flooding from construction of a building. He added that it's a prime piece of property and that low-income families in that area need the services of a library. Mr. Bardwell noted that Mrs. Tomlinson has presented excellent points to consider. Mr. John Smith said they could build a small branch and leave the rest of the property untouched. In conclusion the Board decided that the Library staff should research the cost to construct a small branch on this site and present this information to the Board for their decision.

D. Children's Services Division – Ms. Pabby Arnold

Mr. Farrar asked Ms. Pabby Arnold, Head of the Children's Services Division to summarize the functions of her division. Ms. Arnold distributed a large packet of materials that she gives parents to assist them in developing literacy readiness in their babies and young children along with the June calendar of events for the Summer Reading Program. She said she has always had an interest in how children get interested in reading and in helping them to read. She said many children do not have books at home. Being read to at home not only teaches the child about how books are read, but it also teaches the child about history, geography, and science through the context of the story. She added that in order to foster literacy, a child must be reached before the age of two. Reading one-on-one for twenty minutes per day to a young child instills the desire to read because of the pleasure in this early experience. She added that for young boys it is critical that they see men reading and enjoying it. If by third grade this role model experience is lacking, then young boys will not be readers. She said that in many states third grade reading scores are used to determine the number of beds to build in new prisons because there is a correlation between illiteracy and crime. Ms. Arnold referred to a document listing the many activities that the Children's Services Division provides to their patrons, and pointed out the emphasis on reading with the question, "Have you read to a child today?". Our children are our future.

Mr. Farrar thanked Ms. Arnold for her presentation. He said that the Library's Children's Services is vital to enhancing literacy and that Ms. Arnold is a reflection of her division's dedication to serving the children of the community.

Comments by the Library Board of Control

Mr. Reed recognized Mr. Smith who wished to make a comment to the Library Board. He thanked the Board for acknowledging the need for additional programs to address literacy in East Baton Rouge Parish with the outreach vehicles and staff.

Mr. Farrar told the Board that Ms. Connie Young of *Infor* was in attendance. *Infor* is providing the upgraded ILS system for the Library. Ms. Young has been working with the Library staff this week to set parameters for the new system.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Ms. Freeman.

Dan Reed, President

David Farrar, Library Director