

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL  
MAIN LIBRARY  
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD  
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806  
FEBRUARY 18, 2010  
4:00 P.M.

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 21, 2010
- III. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR
  - A. FINANCIAL REPORT
  - B. SYSTEM REPORTS
  - C. OTHER REPORTS
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
  - A. REPORT ON DESIGN WORK FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY
  - B. REPORT ON ROUZAN DEVELOPMENT – JTS REALTY SERVICES, LLC
  - C. REPORT ON FAIRWOOD BRANCH LIBRARY
  - D. REPORT ON RIVER CENTER BRANCH LIBRARY
  - E. PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY – MS. NIKKI ESSIX
- V. 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

February 18, 2010

The regular meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held in the auditorium of the Main Library on February 18, 2010. 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. Kizzy Payton, and Ms. Beth Tomlinson. Also in attendance were Mr. David Farrar, Library Director; Ms. Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director of Branch Services; Ms. Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director of Administration; Ms. Brenda Lovett, Library Business Manager; Ms. Rhonda Pinsonat, Assistant Library Business Manager; and Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director. Ms. Tara Wicker Metropolitan Council member for District 10; Ms. Alison Cascio, Metropolitan Council member for District 11; Mr. Davis Rhorer, Director of the Downtown Development District; Ms. Nikki Essix, of the Parish Attorney's Office; and Mr. Jermaine Watson, Governmental Affairs Associate with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber were present. Mr. Ken Tipton, architect with Tipton Associates; Mr. Norman Chenevert and Mr. Dyke Nelson, architects with Chenevert Architects; Mr. Tommy Spinosa of JTS Realty Services, LLC and several of his pre-construction team; and Mr. Mike Sullivan, architect with Looney Ricks Kiss Architects also attended. There were about thirty people from the community present. Mr. Steven Ward, reporter and Mr. Arthur Lauck, photographer both with *The Advocate* and Mr. Todd Brown with *The Greater Baton Rouge Business Report* attended the meeting. Absent from the meeting was Board member, Ms. Tanya Freeman.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Library Board on January 21, 2010 were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Payton, and seconded by Ms. Tomlinson.

### **Reports by the Director**

Mr. Reed asked Mr. Farrar to present his financial and system reports. Mr. Farrar gave his reports noting that the Statement of Revenues, Expenditures, and Encumbrances as of December 31, 2009 show operating expenditures of \$22,626,695.79 or 83.85% of the operating budget spent. This total will not become final until the Finance Department closes out 2009. Changes from this point forward should be minimal. Expenditures for 2009 exceeded revenues by \$3,250,000 because of a mid-year budget supplement in order to fund the construction of the new Fairwood Branch Library, additional funding for the new Main Library and the purchase of three vehicles for the Library's outreach programs.

Operating expenditures through January 31, 2010 are \$1,712,156.41 or 5.48% of the operating budget. Cash collections from property taxes for 2010 remain strong and are \$1,450,000 higher than the same period last year. Interest earnings from cash and investments for 2009 remained at \$398,774.54 through the first three quarters. Final interest earnings for 2009 are estimated to be approximately \$465,000.

Mr. Farrar added that the gate count and database statistics for January were good. Circulation figures for January were up by six percent. Ms. Stein noted that one of the servers on which statistics were stored had crashed last fall, but that they were extracting data in order to report on the statistics for the last quarter of 2009.

Ms. Stein added that through the Library's website, patrons can view a digital photo library. They are also adding the capability for patrons to access answers to frequently asked questions. Ms. Husband reported that a new cooling tower has been installed at the Bluebonnet Regional Branch Library. The replacement of a chiller at the Jones Creek Regional Branch Library is in the bidding process. Mr. Farrar concluded his report by noting that all branches and the Main Library now have WIFI accessibility.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Report on Design Work for New Main Library**

In December Chenevert Architects was chosen as the firm to provide a Commissioning Agent to review the work of The Library Design Collaborative members in order to obtain a Leadership in Engineering and Environmental Design (LEED) certification for the new Main Library construction. Mr. Ken Tipton, a member of The Library Design Collaborative, said they have met with Mr. Dyke Nelson who is the Commissioning Agent for the library project. Mr. Nelson said that he will give a report to the Board after reviewing the design work of the architects. Mr. Bardwell asked what percent of the design drawings are complete to which Mr. Tipton said between 90-95%.

Mr. John Thompson, of Luke Thompson & Associates, said that mechanical and electrical engineers are reviewing the designs of the architects. The Commissioning Agent will then report to the Library Board. He will advise on what the architects can do to make the project better which is required for a building to be LEED certified. Mr. Tom DuBos, a member of the community, asked if the LEED certification process requires the implementation of all the suggestions or can some items be excluded because of cost. Mr. Reed replied that Mr. Nelson will tell the Board what can be done to make the building more efficient. Mr. Farrar added that they will look at the cost savings over time.

### **B. Report on Rouzan Development-JTS Realty Services, LLC**

Mr. Reed asked for a report by JTS Realty Services on the Rouzan development. Mr. Mike Sullivan, architect with Looney Ricks Kiss Architects, talked about the progress on the design of a branch library since his presentation at the Board meeting in November of 2009. Mr. Sullivan used a PowerPoint presentation at this meeting.

Mr. Farrar asked Mr. Sullivan to show where the library building will be located within the Rouzan development. Mr. Sullivan replied that the branch library would be in the Village Green

on Perkins Road near Congress Boulevard. He said that patrons would be able to enter the development from the intersection of Congress Boulevard and Perkins Road and that a parking deck would be located to the right of the building.

Mr. Sullivan explained that since the last meeting, he has met with library staff in regard to the design of the interior of the building. He has consolidated the workrooms into one project/teaming room of 200 square feet. He said that the reading area is in the center of the building. The collections are on either side of the building with the meeting rooms facing the Village Green. He noted that the Children's Room contains a storytelling room. The Teen area is separated from the Children's Room and contains a study area. He showed 3-dimensional illustrations of the various areas inside the building. One of today's most popular library designs is an oval shape in the center of the building that branches out into programmed space. The circulation desk is designed similar to a retail bookstore with a clear story, or skylight to allow daylight into the building and to also function as a way finder. The 15,000 square foot building also contains many areas for programming. Ms. Husband added that the flooring and furniture also identify the various departments in the branch building.

Mr. Sullivan stated that the exterior of the building is red brick with a traditional look. Mr. Reed asked about the height of the building to which Mr. Sullivan replied that the library building would be 22 feet high with a ceiling height of 17 feet.

Mrs. Gayle Smith, a member of the community, asked whether the parking area would be built and whether the buildings adjacent to the branch library had been leased yet. Mr. Tom DuBos asked if the streets have been designed. Mr. Sullivan replied that all of these items are being addressed now. Ms. Tomlinson then added that these issues were all mentioned at the last Board meeting and are in the minutes of that meeting.

Mr. John Berry, a member of the community, said that since the last Board meeting on January 21, 2010, there have been three articles in the media regarding Mr. Tommy Spinosa and the problems with his development at Perkins Rowe. Mr. Berry asked if the Library Board can continue to pursue building a library branch in the Rouzan development under these circumstances. Mr. Reed replied that the Parish Attorney is now working on a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to protect the East Baton Rouge Parish Library should the Rouzan development not be constructed. Mr. Reed also noted that one of the articles to which Mr. Berry referred was written in *The Greater Baton Rouge Business Report* and that this media outlet does not regularly attend the Board meetings.

A woman from the community then asked Mr. Reed if the Library Board is going to proceed with the Rouzan site for the branch library and if there are any negotiations occurring between the donors of the site on Burbank Drive and the Library. Mr. Reed replied that there are no negotiations on the Burbank site currently.

### **C. Report on Fairwood Branch Library**

Mr. Farrar gave an update on the progress of the work to build the Fairwood Branch Library. Mr. Richard Brown, architect with Bani, Carville and Brown Architects, Inc. was unable to

attend this meeting, but he will present some initial designs to the Library Board in March or April. Mr. Farrar said that the contract between the City and the architect has been completed. Mr. DuBos asked if this branch would be similar to the Carver Branch Library, and what was the timeline for construction and completion of the building. Mr. Reed replied that it takes approximately six months to select a contractor to build the facility and then at least a couple of years before the dedication of the building. Mr. Browning added that he and Mr. DuBos come from a background in the business world and therefore, do not understand the amount of time required to build a facility for a department of parish government.

#### **D. Report on River Center Branch Library**

At the January Board meeting Mr. Farrar said he had received several calls about the downtown branch library from those who want a new branch built and from those who do not. At that meeting Mr. Farrar said that he wanted to establish a downtown library advisory committee. Today Mr. Farrar reported that he has sent an e-mail to several people inviting them to participate on the committee. He added that they will analyze the public comments and report to the Board as to the most financially responsible path to take. A member of the public asked who would be appointed to the committee to which Ms. Tomlinson replied that they do not know who the members of the committee will be until those who were asked reply to the e-mail invitation.

Mr. Reed noted that Mr. Trey Trahan of Trahan Architects was asked to conduct a feasibility study for a downtown branch library. As a result of this study, Mr. Trahan presented conceptual drawings for four options for the River Center Branch. Mr. Trahan was nominated by an international architectural committee for an award for the conceptual design of a new River Center Branch Library. Mr. Reed said that Mr. Trahan accepted the award in New York City last evening.

Mr. Andy Kopplin, a member of the community, said he is a downtown resident and that not all patrons of the downtown library are homeless. He said the residents of downtown want a new downtown branch. He added that people come downtown for parades, the Farmer's Market and cultural activities. He said the Board should consider what would draw people to come to the downtown library. Ms. Tomlinson added that when they talk about being financially responsible, it does not necessarily mean the lowest cost for a facility. Mr. Kopplin added that the problems with parking downtown are not unique to Baton Rouge, and that other cities have downtown parking issues also. The solution to this problem is parking garages and public transportation. He also said that charter schools will be opening downtown and students from these schools will need the services of the public library. Mr. Reed pointed out that the parking garage on Convention Street is convenient and has ample parking. Ms. Tomlinson then said that in an urban setting, challenges such as parking are different from the challenges faced in a suburban setting.

Mr. Browning noted that the River Center Branch is the second least used branch in the Library system. Mr. Scott Murry, a member of the community, said he lives in Beauregard Town and that downtown is great. He added that Salt Lake City has a wonderful downtown library. He noted that Baton Rouge is a growing city and that downtown is the face of the city. He

encouraged people to park in front of his house and on the street in Beauregard Town. He then said that it would be a shame to do nothing with the River Center Branch especially in light of Mr. Trahan's award winning design for this branch.

Ms. Tara Wicker, Metropolitan Council member from District 10, said she echoes what Mr. Kopplin said. She added that they use the River Center Branch. Having a parking problem is good because it indicates that downtown is alive. She also said that downtown is the city's living room and is a place where all in the community can come together. She added that they can work on the parking issues.

Mr. Davis Rhorer, Director of the Downtown Development District, thanked the Library Board for the opportunity today to discuss the issues involved in the downtown library. Mr. Rhorer made several comments noting that there will be approximately 1,000 students attending the charter schools downtown. He also said that parking is a wonderful problem to have because it means people are coming downtown. He said that when the River Center Branch was built, parking for library patrons was available. However, over time the Library lost this parking. Mr. Reed replied that the River Center Branch was built prior to the first dedicated library tax election, and so the River Center Branch belongs to the City. Mr. DuBos said that the City should share in the cost of this project and that they should not just use Library tax money for this.

Mr. Reed noted that in the past the public has said they want each branch to be similar in design. A patron then said that people do not know that there is a library on St. Louis Street, and that they need to open it up to the community.

Several patrons then made comments about the downtown branch library. A library patron from the Broadmoor area of town said she has always used the downtown branch because it is downtown. She said she grew up in Detroit and they always went to the downtown library. Father Howard Hall, a member of the community, said he is 68 years old and that his aunt always took him to the library on Laurel Street. He lives downtown now and has been active in the Friends of the Public Library in West Feliciana Parish. He said comments have been made that libraries are only warehouses for books, but he would like to see the Library Board be visionary with a renovation or multi-faceted approach to the downtown branch. Another patron noted that there are taxpayers downtown and that downtown is a hot spot for redevelopment. A patron then asked what the mission of the library is to which Ms. Stein said the mission of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library is to serve all residents of the parish as an educational, informational, recreational and cultural center through a wide variety of resources, services and programs. Ms. Heather Savoy, a member of the community, said that the way the library functions today differs from the way it did in the past. She added that if they renovate the current building, it will result in more of the same.

The patron from Broadmoor said that people come downtown between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. So they should look at how to encourage these people to come to the library. The library could hold lunch programs featuring such topics as local history, and the blues. Mr. Farrar noted that the downtown branch also houses the Baton Rouge Room and the Foundation Center Grants Collection. Low circulation statistics for the River Center Branch were questioned. Ms. Kathy

Wascom, a member of the community and retired Library employee, said that the circulation statistics may reflect the fact that the items in the River Center Branch collection may not be the most popular ones with the public and hence a low circulation count. Ms. Stein added that the River Center Branch does have a sizable number of large print books in its collection.

Another patron said that she appreciates the opportunity to give her opinion and for the public to give the Library Board feedback on the downtown branch library. She wondered what type of programs downtown workers would want. Ms. Stein replied that in the past meeting room availability was important. Another patron noted that she lives and works downtown. She added that she is the parent of two children. It is difficult to get to the River Center Branch now because of the construction of the new courthouse. She did say that there is not a lot of variety in the collection at the River Center Branch. Mr. Farrar said that they are also hearing that from others patrons about the collection at the downtown branch. Another patron said that there are many young families living downtown and they would like to have an updated branch there.

Mr. Steven Ward, reporter with *The Advocate* asked what the cost difference is between a renovated building and a new building. Mr. Farrar replied that a renovated building would cost approximately between \$6-10 million while a new building would cost between \$19-22 million.

Mr. Berry said that he is looking at the gate count for the River Center Branch in January. He said nobody would deny the people in downtown a library, but the question is what should be done about the library downtown. He wants the downtown library updated, but it can be done without expending the huge amount of money that Mr. Trahan's design would require. Mr. Browning added that there is another branch less than a mile away from the River Center Branch.

#### **E. Public Comment Policy-Ms. Nikki Essix**

Mr. Reed said that Ms. Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office was asked at the December meeting to draft a policy for the Library Board members to review and discuss. Ms. Essix said that the proposed policy has been written and was reviewed by Parish Attorney Ms. Mary Roper. Mr. Browning made a motion that the Library Board table the discussion of the revision of the public comment policy and that the current policy remain in force. Mr. Bardwell seconded the motion. Mr. Reed, Ms. Payton, Mr. Bardwell and Mr. Browning voted for the motion and Ms. Tomlinson voted against the motion. The motion passed. Therefore, the current procedure restricting comments to items on the agenda will remain in place. Ms. Tomlinson then said that the word, "table" should not be used in the motion as it indicates that it cannot be placed on next month's agenda. Mr. Bardwell disagreed and said the wording of the motion is acceptable.

#### **Comments by the Library Board of Control**

Mr. Farrar said that over the last year the various divisions and branches of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library were featured during the Library Board meetings. He added that his division is comprised of himself and his Executive Assistant, Ms. Liz Zozulin. He said that she is the

backbone of so many staff activities including the taking and writing of the Board minutes. He noted that he and Ms. Zozulin work well together every day and appreciates her efforts. Those in attendance applauded his comments.

Ms. Tomlinson said that she is pleased that so many members of the public came to the Library Board meeting today. She especially appreciates it in light of the fact that the meeting is scheduled at 4:00 p.m. when many have other commitments at this time.

Ms. Stein announced that on February 23, 2010, the Carver Branch Library will celebrate the fifth anniversary of the dedication of this building at 720 Terrace Street. The public is invited to attend this event and to also learn about the Old South Baton Rouge Oral History Collection located at this branch. Ms. Elizabeth "Boo" Thomas, Director of the Center for Planning Excellence, noted that there is a tremendous use of patron computers at this branch.

Mr. Reed then said that the new, larger building which replaced the old Carver Branch facility clearly increased its use. The same thing could happen downtown, but we cannot count on it. The situations are different and the size of the current River Center Branch probably does not limit its use.

Councilwoman Wicker said that she received the Library's newsletter, *The Source* at her Council office. She said it contains so much information about the offerings at the Library. She said the Library needs to publicize its programs to a greater extent. She asked for more copies of *The Source* to distribute at the next Council meeting. She concluded her remarks by saying that she wants Library service downtown, too. There are approximately 85,000 people in Baton Rouge who are illiterate.

Mr. Bardwell said that he wants to echo Ms. Tomlinson's comments. He, too, appreciates and respects the public's comments. He added that he would like to comment on the downtown branch library. He said that he supports a downtown branch library. He said after being on the Library Board for two years, he has learned how to serve the needs of the patrons.

He noted that he has come to two conclusions regarding the downtown branch. His first conclusion is that if the downtown branch were to be built today, it would not be placed at its current location because it is not accessible. The Library Board has had a full agenda with decisions about the new Main Library, and the Rouzan site versus the Burbank Drive location. The Board has been weighing the various options in order to take the correct course of action for the downtown branch. The Board has wanted to see what the situation would be after the new courthouse is built. The two bond issue proposals by Mayor Holden and the Town Square project also had impacts on the decision of the Library Board regarding the timing of when the Board should address the downtown issue.

Mr. Bardwell said that his second conclusion is about where a downtown branch should be located. He noted that the population of Beauregard Town and Spanish Town are the markets for this downtown branch. He said he feels that they should consider an alternative use for the current downtown branch building by identifying one or two novel or visionary uses of the building for downtown. He added that they should consider where to relocate the downtown



branch and could possibly move back to the original Library on Laurel Street. That location would be unique and close to the majority of residents who live downtown. He added that the present branch could feature a world class video collection about art and architecture from around the world. He concluded his remarks by saying that he would like to see the advisory committee look at alternative uses for the River Center Branch.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion by Ms. Payton, seconded by Mr. Browning at 5:45 p.m.

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Dan Reed, President

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David Farrar, Library Director