

TENTATIVE AGENDAS
FOR SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
MAIN LIBRARY BOARD ROOM
7711 GOODWOOD BOULEVARD
BATON ROUGE, LA 70806

MAY 2, 2009
9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 16, 2009
- III. ELECTION OF VICE PRESIDENT OF LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. REPORT ON ROUZAN DEVELOPMENT AND APPROVAL OF GOVERNANCE DOCUMENTS – MR. TOMMY SPINOSA - JTS REALTY SERVICES, LLC
 - B. DISCUSSION OF DESIGN WORK FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY – MR. STEVE JACKSON, MR. KEN TIPTON AND MS. DENELLE WRIGHTSON
 - 1. LIBRARY/BREC – REPRESENTATION ISSUES REGARDING SHARED WORK
- V. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

MAY 3, 2009
2:00 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.

- I. ROLL CALL
- II. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. PRESENTATION OF DESIGN ALTERNATIVES FOR NEW MAIN LIBRARY - MR. STEVE JACKSON, MR. KEN TIPTON AND MS. DENELLE WRIGHTSON
 - B. DISCUSSION BY LIBRARY BOARD OF DESIGN ALTERNATIVES
- III. 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.

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

May 3, 2009

The special meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held in the Board Room of the Main Library on Sunday, May 3, 2009. Mr. Dan Reed, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mr. Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr., Mr. Donald Browning, Ms. Tanya Freeman, Mr. Jamie Griffin 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. Brenda Lovett, Library Business Manager; Mr. Ronnie Pierce, Accountant in the Library Business Office; Mr. Tim Bankston, Library Facilities Manager; Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; Ms. Nikki Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office; and Metropolitan Councilman Rodney "Smokey" Bourgeois of District 12. From The Library Design Collaborative were Mr. Steve Jackson, Mr. Ken Tipton; Ms. Denelle Wrightson, Mr. Benjamin Bradford and Mr. Henry Louth. Also present were eight members of the community and Mr. Scott Dyer, reporter with *The Advocate*.

Old Business

A. Presentation of Design Alternatives for the New Main Library – Mr. Steve Jackson, Mr. Ken Tipton and Ms. Denelle Wrightson

Mr. Reed opened the meeting by saying that at yesterday's special Board meeting, they asked The Library Design Collaborative architects to study the addition of a patron pick up and drop off area close to the building and a re-design of the parking lot so that handicapped parking would be nearer to the entrance of the building.

The architects distributed a schematic design drawing of the new Main Library with several revisions in response to the Board's request the day before. Mr. Jackson said that they looked at adding a door on the south side of the building, but that was not feasible because the door would have cut into a staff work area. Ms. Freeman asked if fire doors are in the design to which Ms. Wrightson said yes. The architects have moved the parking area closer to the building entrance, and have added 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. This new design saves some trees also. Mr. Reed said that with this design everyone can experience the park. Mr. Reed asked if some of the square footage of Thought Square (the plaza) is lost to which the architects said yes. What was lost of the plaza enables vehicles to get in and out more quickly. Mrs. Tomlinson said that now they can call it a plaza. Mr. Bardwell said this design is a great improvement.

Ms. Betty Toepfro, a member of the community who is handicapped said that it is very difficult to get into a building from one's car during inclement weather. Mr. John Berry, a member of the community, asked if there is a cover over the handicapped parking to which Mr. Tipton said no. Mr. Reed asked where covered parking for the handicapped is provided in this city. Mr. Berry

replied that the Library should be helping patrons. Mr. Reed felt that if they cover the handicapped spaces, non-handicapped people will illegally park there.

Mr. Jackson said he understands Ms. Toepfro's concerns. Mr. Jackson asked the Board if they wished them to design the handicapped parking area with a cover. Mr. Reed said he hears that it is hard for the handicapped to get in and out of cars when it is raining, but there is a covered drop off area. He is also concerned about the cost of upkeep for covered parking. Mrs. Tomlinson added she is concerned about reverse discrimination charges. Ms. Wrightson said people with children may want special parking, so the covered parking issue is a challenge. Ms. Wrightson added that there are sixteen handicapped parking spaces in this design. Regulations require only nine.

Mr. Berry, a member of the community, asked if the Library has security guards to which Mr. Farrar replied that the Library contracts with off-duty East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Deputies. Mr. Berry said that the deputies could patrol the parking lot and issue tickets for illegally parking in covered handicapped parking. Ms. Freeman replied that from her experience the security guards will not spend their time issuing parking summons.

Mr. Bardwell asked where the 33 parking spaces were added to which the architects said they were added on either side of the patron drop off area. Mr. Bardwell then asked for the dimensions of a handicapped parking space. Mr. Jackson said they are eight feet long with a five foot aisle between spaces. Mr. Bardwell said he is uncomfortable with no covered parking for the handicapped and felt it was needed. Mr. Reed disagreed and added that if they had covered parking, lighting would probably need to be added for safety. Mr. Jackson said they can provide covered parking, but Ms. Wrightson said aesthetics would be a problem. Mr. Reed asked if he was correct that covered handicapped parking is not something that is generally provided. Mr. Jackson said they would need to research the answer. Mr. Bardwell said that one does not see covered parking for handicapped in other public buildings because in the design phase for other public building construction, public input is not sought. Mr. Bardwell thought the Board should ask for a quote for covered parking.

Mr. Browning asked if there is a distance requirement under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regarding the distance from handicapped parking to the building to which Mr. Tipton said no; that the law just stipulates the handicapped parking must be the closest available parking. Ms. Wrightson added that one can postpone a visit to the library during inclement weather. Ms. Toepfro said she appreciates the chance that the Board has given the public to speak about issues of concern and she believes the Board now has something to think about and consider. Mr. Bardwell said that the architects gave them good reasons not to provide covered handicapped parking. However, if the cost is \$30,000 to \$40,000, that is a small cost as compared to the cost of the entire building. Mr. Bardwell then made a motion that the architects should give the Library Board a quote to provide covered parking for the handicapped. Mr. Brown seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Mr. Jackson replied that they will do a design study and probable cost for covered handicapped parking.

Ms. Freeman and Mrs. Tomlinson commented that they would like to see artwork displayed in the plaza area. Mrs. Tomlinson asked if there will be room for benches in the parking lot area to which the architects said yes.

Mr. Reed asked that they discuss the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification aspects of the project. Mr. Jackson said that they are working on the probable cost for LEED certification. Mr. Bardwell said he does not like the proposed “double skin” feature that the architects discussed and does not see the justification for cost savings. Mr. Reed said the dual skin is also for aesthetic design. Mr. Farrar said that if the Board approves the further study of LEED certification for this project, then the architects can provide information on the cost and the long-term savings. Mr. Jackson said that in order to provide the information on LEED certification, the budget for the project will need to be increased. Mrs. Tomlinson said she would like the architects to further study LEED certification and supports an increase to the budget.

Mr. Griffin said he does not understand why the budget must be increased if the architects are simply studying the probable cost of certification. Mr. Tipton replied that they need a budget change regardless of whether the Board decides to pursue LEED certification. Ms. Lovett said that they can move money from one line item to another without the approval of the Metropolitan Council. Mr. Griffin asked for a clarification of this process to which Ms. Lovett said that one can not enter into a contract without money in the budget. Mr. Griffin said this is why the public is confused. Mr. Reed replied that the contract with the architects is overseen by Mr. Jim Frey, architect with the City-Parish Department of Public Works. His job is to review the contract and the charges incurred and keep the project on budget. Mr. Farrar added that this is a City-Parish regulation and that Mr. Frey will not authorize payment to the architects if the work for which they bill is not in the contract. Mr. Jackson added that their contract is with the City-Parish Department of Public Works and the Library is the user. Mr. Tipton said that Mr. Frey will only allow them to move forward with the work if the \$2.5 million is approved by the Board. Mr. Bardwell said that he is unclear about this process.

Ms. Lovett said that they can no longer pay the architects. Mr. Bardwell asked when they could request the approval of the Metropolitan Council for a change in the budget to which Councilman Rodney “Smokey” Bourgeois, Metropolitan Councilman for District 12 said June. Ms. Freeman said they do want the additional information. Ms. Wrightson replied in order to give the Board the additional information the architects need to do design development studies. Mr. Farrar said the items in the study can contribute to LEED certification. It was noted that a commissioning agent will also be necessary.

Mr. Jackson noted that there are four parts to the budget for the new Main Library. They are the budgeted program, the additional \$2.3 million for civil and engineering fees for removal of the old airport runway on the site, the cost of LEED certification and the owner requested items such as the additional elevator. Ms. Wrightson asked if any more of their invoices can be paid to which Ms. Lovett said only those that fall within the scope of work. Ms. Lovett added that next month they will present the Library budget for 2010, so they will need to add the additional cost for this project to that budget. Mr. Reed then made a motion to increase the budget for the new Main Library from \$35,748,000 to \$43,502,000. Ms. Freeman seconded the motion, and Mr. Browning, Mr. Griffin and Mrs. Tomlinson voted in favor; Mr. Bardwell voted against the motion. Mr. Jackson said they will begin the design process to which Ms. Freeman asked that

the Board be given information in the packets that they receive prior to the Board meeting so that they can be informed and able to participate in discussions at the Board meetings.

Mr. Tipton then discussed the allocation of space from one floor to another. He said it is possible to reallocate, but it fundamentally means that they must start over with the schematic designs. Mr. Tipton said that from the beginning of the discussions about the building, a two-floor public access with a third floor for Administration was the desire. Mr. Bardwell asked if the footprint would be less intrusive if they had three public floors. Ms. Wrightson replied that there isn't another collection that they could move to the third floor. Mr. Griffin noted that they already had a discussion yesterday about adjacencies. He added that the Board should defer to the Library staff and the architects on this issue. He said they have listened to the public and have added the Genealogy Department, the Baton Rouge Room and the Career Center to the new Main Library.

Mrs. Gayle Smith, a member of the community, said the public does not think that the professionals have given a good explanation for the placement of these departments. Ms. Freeman replied that some of this is about choices. Ms. Wrightson added that they spoke to the staff and to the public about these collections. The number one reason that was given for the move of these collections was for patron access. She said the decision of where these collections were placed was not made lightly. Ms. Wrightson cited four libraries that placed Genealogy on the third floor and now they are being moved out of that floor for better patron access. Mr. Browning said that the Board members that want the third floor for public access have lost and so have the patrons. Ms. Tomlinson said that a small number of people want the third floor to have public access, but the majority is pleased with this design.

Mr. Bardwell said he does not like the exterior design of the building. He said bringing the park into the library is fine, but he would like them to mitigate the contemporary feel of the building. He does not want an oddity and would like it to be visually compatible with the park. He said he would like the inside of the building to contain wood and to have a traditional design. Ms. Wrightson replied that the library is for all from the cradle to the grave. Within the building there will be a variety of architectural designs. She said patrons needs change depending on the purpose for the visit to the library; that is sometimes they need a quiet traditional space and sometimes they need a more interactive area.

Mrs. Smith asked if there would be rest rooms in Children's Services to which Ms. Wrightson said yes. Mr. Berry asked about expansion and said he hoped that they had not put aside consideration of expansion. He asked if the walls would be expandable to give each department more room in the future. Mr. Bardwell replied that they have added expansion to the design at this time. Ms. Stein added that there is space for the expansion of the collection in this design. Ms. Wrightson noted that the trend is to build larger regional branches rather than add square footage to a main library. Mr. Berry ended the discussion on expansion by saying that the third floor should be built out to add more meeting room space.

Mr. Reed said he is thankful that they have hired these fine architects. Mr. Jackson said that before they can begin the design phase of this project, they need a motion to approve the schematic design. Mr. Reed made a motion to ratify the approval of the schematic design of the

Library in the Park and to move to the design development phase of the project. Ms. Tomlinson seconded the motion which passed unanimously. Ms. Freeman said that the Board would have a better understanding of this project now because Mr. Farrar will be sure that they receive additional detailed information prior to the Board meetings.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:17 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Browning, seconded by Ms. Freeman.

Dan Reed, President

David Farrar, Library Director