

TENTATIVE AGENDA
FOR REGULAR MEETING OF THE
EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
CARVER BRANCH LIBRARY
720 TERRACE STREET
BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
MEETING ROOMS 1 AND 2
MAY 15, 2008
4:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF APRIL 24, 2008

III. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR

- A. FINANCIAL REPORT
- B. SYSTEM REPORT
- C. OTHER REPORTS

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MAIN LIBRARY – MR. STEVE JACKSON, COCKFIELD-JACKSON ARCHITECTS
- B. BRANCH LIBRARY IN ROUZAN DEVELOPMENT – DAN REED
- C. CUSTOMER SATISFACTION SURVEY AND BOARD SELF-STUDY – DOROTHY STEPTEAU

V. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Minutes of the Meeting of the

East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control

May 15, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Carver Branch Library on Thursday, May 15, 2008. Mr. Dan Reed, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mr. Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr., Mr. Donald Browning, Mr. Jamie Griffin, and Ms. Dorothy Stepteau. Also in attendance were Mr. Leroy J. Colter, newly appointed Library Board member; Mrs. Lydia M. Acosta, Library Director; Mrs. Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director of Administration; Mrs. Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director of Branch Services; Mrs. Brenda Lovett, Library Business Manager; Mrs. Rhonda Pinsonat, Assistant Library Business Manager, Mr. Ronnie Pierce, Accountant in the Library Business Office; and Ms. Claire Delaune, Public Relations Specialist with the Library. Also present were former Library Board Presidents, Mrs. Georgia Brown and Mr. John Carnahan; Ms. Nikki Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office, Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects, Mr. Joseph T. Spinosa, CEO of JTS Realty Services; Mr. Grant Conway of JTS Realty Services; Mr. Jason Hargrave and Ms. Lisa Hargrave, both of LRK; Mr. Scott Dyer, reporter with *The Advocate* and ten members of the community. Absent from the meeting was Library Board member Mrs. Katherine Auer.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Library Board on April 24, 2008 were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Browning, and seconded by Mr. Bardwell with two corrections noted. In regard to the Library's self-study, staff input is also encouraged. In the naming of the branch library located in the eastern portion of the parish, Ms. Stepteau did not vote in favor of the name Fairwood Branch Library.

Mr. Reed noted that today is Ms. Dorothy Stepteau's last day as a member of the Library Board. He said she was the only member remaining on the Board from the date that he was first appointed to the Board. He added that Ms. Stepteau has served on the Board for fifteen years. He asked her if she wished to make any comments. Ms. Stepteau said she preferred to make some farewell remarks at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Reed added that the Metropolitan Council appointed a new member to the Board yesterday to replace Ms. Stepteau. He introduced Mr. Leroy J. Colter, and asked if he wished to make any remarks. Mr. Colter replied that he would do so at next month's Board meeting. Mr. Reed said that Mr. Colter is employed as the Director of Governmental Affairs for Baton Rouge General Medical Center.

Reports by the Director

Mrs. Acosta referred to the Expenditure and Encumbrance statements for the period ending April 30, 2008 and for the period ending December 31, 2007. The latter report was preliminary and unaudited as of May 2, 2008. However, Mrs. Lovett noted that though the Expenditure and Encumbrance statement ending December 31, 2007 is unaudited, she did not anticipate any

changes to be made after the audit of the statement. System reports included statistics for April 2008 for Circulation, Gate Count, Reference Questions Answered, and Library and Database Usage. There were no other reports to present.

Old Business

Report on Construction of New Main Library-Mr. Steve Jackson, Cockfield Jackson Architects

Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects gave an oral report to the Library Board on the activities involved in the designing of the new Main Library in the Park. He said he met with BREC Administration today to review BREC's Master Plan. The final document will be produced and presented to the BREC Board on May 22, 2008 for their approval. The approved plan will then be presented to the Library Board. Mr. Jackson said he is working on the final draft of the contract between The Library Design Collaborative and the Library. Before the contract can be signed, it must be reviewed by the City-Parish Department of Public Works Architectural Services Division, the Parish Attorney and the City-Parish Purchasing Department. It then is placed on the agenda of the Capital Improvements Committee of the Metropolitan Council. Upon the recommendation of the Capital Improvements Committee, the contract will need the approval of the Metropolitan Council. At this point the representatives of The Library Design Collaborative and the Mayor-President will be authorized to sign the contract.

Update on Rouzan Development-Mr. Dan Reed

Mr. Reed summarized the discussion at last month's Board meeting about constructing a library branch in the Rouzan development. Mr. Bardwell and Mr. Browning were concerned about the delay in constructing a branch library for the southern portion of the parish. A motion was made to discontinue plans to build a branch library in Rouzan, and to instead proceed with the plans to build a branch off Burbank Drive. Ms. Stepteau had said she was not prepared to vote at that meeting about the location of the branch library because the agenda item stated that this was an update of information about the Rouzan development. Mr. Reed stated that the Board needed to honor the letter of intent agreed upon with Mr. Spinosa. He said that Mr. Spinosa or his representatives should be present at the Board meeting when a vote is taken. Mr. Reed then made a substitute motion that the Board should place an item on the May agenda to reconsider the Rouzan location for a branch library. This motion passed.

Mr. Reed said that since the last Board meeting, he and Mrs. Acosta had met with Mr. Joseph T. Spinosa regarding a timetable for the development of Rouzan. Therefore, Mr. Reed withdrew the substitute motion that he had made last month. Mr. Spinosa was asked to present his timeline. Mr. Spinosa gave the Board members a document outlining the proposed timetable for the construction of the branch library within Rouzan. A copy of the document is attached to these minutes. Mr. Spinosa said that if the Library Board approved this timeline today, he felt construction on the library building could begin by December of this year. Mr. Reed said they would need to see the footprint of the building. Mr. Bardwell asked to see where the footprint

would be located within the development. Mr. Spinosa said that the library would be built in the middle of the Village Center which will be located near Perkins Road and Congress Boulevard. Nine streets that already exist and surround the property will eventually open into the development. Parking for 600 vehicles is planned near the building and in a three-story parking garage. Walker Parking Consultants, a professional consulting firm, will ensure that the number of spaces allocated will be sufficient for the library and the retail establishments. Two renderings of the proposed Rouzan development were displayed. Mr. Jason Hargrave, architect with LRK, displayed photographs of several library branches. Measurements of the distance from the furthest parking space to the front door of the branch were provided. The distances varied between 350-460 feet. Mr. Hargrave indicated on another diagram the number of available spaces for library patrons that were within 400 feet of the front door of the proposed library.

Ms. Stepteau said that she has seen the work of the design team that Mr. Spinosa is hiring to build Rouzan and that their work is very impressive. This same firm designed Southlake in Texas. It is a mixed use community which encourages people to interact with each other.

Mrs. Gayle Smith, a member of the community asked about the size of the proposed branch in Rouzan. Mr. Reed said the library would be approximately 12,000 square feet. Mr. John Berry, another member of the community, expressed concern about the nine entrances into the development and whether the library would be the sole building initially. Mr. Spinosa answered that other buildings will also be constructed at the same time as the library. Streets will be built within the development as construction of buildings occurs with connection to the nine adjacent streets occurring over time. Mr. Berry added that the citizens have waited for three years for their branch to be built and it appears that yet another year will transpire before a branch is completed. He feels that the Board should consider the Burbank site again.

Ms. Beth Tomlinson, another member of the community, addressed the perceived delay in building a branch library in the southern portion of the parish. She said that unless one is employed in the field of design and planning, one does not comprehend how much time is required to design a project and then construct it. She noted that she and her neighbors who live near the Rouzan property are excited about the construction of the new development. They want the branch there because that's part of Southdowns, not the site on Burbank. In regard to the site on Burbank, Ms. Tomlin pointed out that the property is in a flood plain. After the tragic events in the wake of Katrina she believes the public should question building a library there.

Dr. William Gladney who is a Board member of the Southside Civic Association and was a member of the Blue Ribbon Panel that was created by the Metropolitan Council in December 2007 to study issues of concern about Rouzan and offer compromise suggestions to the Metropolitan Council in January 2008, said that Mr. Spinosa needs to file an implementation plan. Mr. Spinosa replied that the plan will be submitted in July 2008.

Ms. Angela Angeloz, a member of the community, asked if there are any environmental studies that need to be completed. Mr. Spinosa replied that he is not required to do any environmental studies. The City-Parish Department of Public Works will study drainage issues when approving the plans for the development. Mr. Reed added that in regard to the library there are no

environmental issues. He also said that the groundbreaking date of December 2008 as noted on Mr. Spinosa's timeline is very optimistic. Mr. Browning said that the Board should place a deadline on the date of the groundbreaking. Mr. Reed replied that there are many more issues that need to be resolved when constructing a library within a traditional neighborhood development versus a library branch built on a plot of land.

Mr. Bardwell said that because the Library Board had gotten no feedback from Mr. Spinosa, last month impatience with this situation developed. The Board felt that other alternatives needed to be pursued. Hence, the request was made to Mr. Spinosa that he address the Board and present a timeline and proposed design schematics. Mr. Bardwell requested that Mr. Spinosa report every other month on the progress of the Rouzan project. This item will appear on the Board agenda every sixty days.

Mr. Berry said that a deadline for the groundbreaking should be set. Mr. Spinosa replied that he does not set the groundbreaking date for the library construction. Mr. Browning noted that a deadline should be made as is customary in industry. Ms. Tomlinson disagreed by stating that many entities are involved in the final approval of the plans by the Metropolitan Council.

Mr. John Carnahan, former President of the Library Board and a member of the community, asked about financing for the Rouzan development. Mr. Spinosa said that financing has already been approved.

Customer Satisfaction Survey and Board Self-Study-Ms. Dorothy Stepteau

Ms. Stepteau said that the self-study committee has created a document for the customer satisfaction survey that is ready to be implemented if the Library Board is in agreement. This survey would be used to determine the satisfaction of the public with the East Baton Rouge Parish Library system. The self-study committee is also working on a draft survey for the Library Board of Control to complete. Ms. Stepteau added that Mr. Bardwell has joined the committee comprised of Mrs. Auer and herself. Ms. Stepteau noted that like her, Mr. Bardwell is very detail-oriented. Mrs. Stein under the direction of Mrs. Acosta has also contributed her expertise to this survey. Ms. Stepteau said that if the Board chooses, an alternative plan would be to hire a consultant who spoke at a recent workshop at the State Library to conduct the survey. The funds to pay for the services of a consultant are in the budget. Mrs. Acosta said that the library administration prefers an electronic survey and is able to implement that. She envisions publicizing the survey through press releases thirty days prior to the posting of the survey on the Library's website. The survey would be available to the public for thirty days. Regular library card holders, computer-use library card holders and staff would be eligible to complete the survey. However, the survey is designed so that the responses will be anonymous.

Ms. Stepteau added that her term on the Board ends on May 16, 2008, but she is willing to continue to work on the committee after she recovers from her knee surgery if the Board wishes. Ms. Stepteau made a motion that the Library Board implement the portion of the survey to be completed by the public and the Library staff. Mr. Griffin seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Comments by the Library Board of Control

Mr. Reed told those in attendance that he and Mrs. Acosta attended a plaque dedication ceremony on April 27 at the office of Mr. Brace Godfrey. Mr. Godfrey owns the Old Washington Fire Station No. 1, the site of the first lending library in East Baton Rouge Parish. The plaque was presented by the Joanna Waddill Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. This chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy had established this first library.

Mr. Bardwell announced that the next *Live at Chelsea's* jazz concert will be held on Wednesday, May 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The Baton Rouge Jazz Ensemble of which Mr. Steve Jackson is a member, will perform again. The event is free.

Ms. Stepteau then made her farewell comments as she concluded fifteen years of service on the Library Board. Among other comments, Ms. Stepteau's speech outlined her participation over the years in the Civil Rights Movement. Attached to these minutes are her remarks in full. Mr. Griffin responded that as President of Forum 35 he can say that Forum 35 is involved in improving race relations in Baton Rouge. He added that he will miss Ms. Stepteau's wisdom and hopes that the Library Board members will follow in her footsteps.

Mrs. Acosta thanked Ms. Stepteau for challenging her. Mr. Carnahan said he appreciated working with her on the Library Board, and Mrs. Brown congratulated her for her service.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mr. Griffin.

Dan Reed, President

Lydia M. Acosta, Director



EBR PARISH LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL
PROPOSED ROUZAN TIMELINE

May 15, 2008	Library Board Meeting Approval to Proceed
May 16, 2008	Draft "Act of Donation" Forwarded to City/Parish Atty
June 1, 2008	Commence Architectural Design
August 13, 2008	Metro Council Acceptance of Proposed Donation subject to Approval of Specific Implementation Plan
August 25, 2008	Planning Commission Approval Specific Implementation Plan
August 27, 2008	Act of Transfer between JTS and City of Baton Rouge/Parish of EBR
November 1, 2008	Completion of Construction/Bid Documents
December 10, 2008	Commence Construction

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Stepteau's Fairwell To Library Board of Control

It has been my privilege to serve as a member of the Library Board of Control for East Baton Rouge Parish for the past fifteen years. I appreciate having worked with two outstanding library directors, John Richard and Lydia Acosta, the second "Energizer Bunny". Also, it has been a joy to work with past and current board members.

If the Board chooses, I will continue to work with the evaluation/focus group/survey of the library system. I will wait to hear from you regarding this matter after I have healed from my knee replacement surgery scheduled for Monday, May 19th.

Over the past fifteen years I have sought to have members of the board and the staff to participate in the YWCA's Dialogue on Race. It is my wish that some of you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to be a part of this organized activity which should prove enlightening to you. I have pushed for more minority representation, especially from the African American community, in leadership positions as board and staff members and as contract employees of our library. I have expressed concern about our recruiting competent librarians with competitive salaries as we continue to build and staff our parish libraries. Moreover, I have asked us to review our current position in light of projections of where we anticipate library services to be in the next five to ten years.

I graduated from Capitol Junior-Senior High School, Spelman College, and LSU. While attending Spelman in the early 60s, I worked with what we called the "Student Movement" in the larger Civil Rights Movement. It was my honor to work with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we sought to gain the right to eat at the various restaurants in downtown Atlanta, to have various jobs with decent wages, and to be treated as citizens with full rights. In 1963, during my senior year at Spelman when I was editor of our college newspaper and an active participant in the struggle for civil rights, I went with other students from the Atlanta University Center (consisting of college students from Spelman, Morehouse, Clark, Morris Brown, and Atlanta University) to Emory University at the invitation of their students. They wanted to have a dialogue with us about the Student Movement. When we got there, we discovered that they also wanted us to explain why Martin Luther King was in Birmingham, Alabama where Bull Conner, the police

chief, had turned the dogs on the protesters and jailed many of them. When that dialogue was over, many students from Emory University welcomed us into their living quarters and offered their help in our fight for equal rights.

In 1987, there were three young black males, all graduates of Capitol High School, who were riding in a 1986 car with an Atlanta, Georgia license plate on the highway to Shreveport, LA. Although they became aware of a car seemingly following them from about twenty miles outside of Shreveport, they continued on their mission. When they pulled into a parking lot of a restaurant, the young man who had been perusing his notes in the back seat got out to purchase food for all of them. The driver of the car that had been following them pulled beside their car and demanded that the two young men in the front seat get out of the car and “spread eagle” while he searched them and the car. He would not allow the young man who had been seated in the back to return to the car, which, incidentally, he owned. This police officer out of uniform and in an unmarked car did not apologize for his behavior which turned up no drugs or anything else illegal. These young men who were targeted probably because they were black and in a relative new car with an out-of-state license plate were traumatized that day and decided that they would avoid returning to Shreveport in the future.

One of the three men was a student at Southern University. Today, because of his expertise, his company flies him across the United States to assist their employees in the workings of electricity. Another young man was in the U. S. Marine Corps and served many years in the service. The other student, the owner of the car who was a student at Morehouse College, was headed to Shreveport to be interviewed for admission into the LSU Medical School. Today, a graduate of Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, he is a board certified anesthesiologist who works in two hospitals as a partner in a medical practice of two hundred medical professionals, has a private practice in pain management, and lives in a million dollar home in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. All of these productive citizens live outside of Louisiana. Perhaps my son would already be here in Louisiana and not have to come from Texas about two weeks after my knee replacement surgery if that incident near Shreveport, LA had not occurred just over twenty years ago.

Our library system offers outstanding services to our citizens. I thank you for allowing me to be a part of this productive enterprise.