

TENTATIVE AGENDA  
FOR SPECIAL WORKSHOP 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 29, 2008  
4:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

II. REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF PROPOSED 2009 LIBRARY BUDGET

III. LIBRARY IN THE PARK CONCEPT DRAWING – STEVE JACKSON AND  
KEN TIPTON

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

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

May 29, 2008

The special workshop meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Carver Branch Library on Thursday, May 29, 2008. Mr. Dan Reed, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Members of the Board present were Mrs. Katherine Auer, Mr. Stanford O. Bardwell, Jr., Mr. Donald Browning, Mr. Leroy J. Colter, and Mr. Jamie Griffin. Also in attendance were 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 Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects; Mr. Ken Tipton architect with Tipton and Associates; Mr. Jermaine Watson, Governmental Affairs Associate with the Baton Rouge Area Chamber; Mr. Scott Dyer, reporter with *The Advocate* and four members of the community. Absent from the meeting was Ms. Nikki Essix, Special Assistant, Office of the Parish Attorney.

**Library in the Park Concept Drawing-Mr. Steve Jackson and Mr. Ken Tipton**

Mr. Reed noted that Mr. Ken Tipton, architect with Tipton and Associates and Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects were asked to attend this meeting to present the concept drawing for the Library in the Park. Mr. Reed asked the Board members if they would be agreeable to reverse the order of the items on the agenda, so that the architects could do their presentation before the Board discussed the proposed 2009 Library budget. There were no objections to Mr. Reed's request. Mr. Steve Jackson distributed copies of the concept drawing to the Board members and those in attendance. Mr. Tipton placed a large copy of the drawing on an easel with a large poster summarizing the key features of the design. Mr. Jackson spoke first and noted that this work was produced by The Library Design Collaborative, a joint venture of the architectural firms of Cockfield Jackson, Tipton and Associates and PSA Dewberry represented by Ms. Denelle Wrightson. This concept drawing is a work in progress and illustrates a blending of the requirements of the Library and BREC in Independence Park. This plan has evolved from ideas that the Library and BREC staffs have said are important to them. It is not "archibabel". He said that this site plan/master plan is a starting point with more to present as the design is further defined.

Mr. Tipton continued the presentation by also stating that some of this design may be altered slightly over time. Mr. Tipton said that it is important to understand the background and remember the words and guiding principles that led to this design. It is a thought park, an integration of mind and body, a place to exercise the mind and the body. It contains a seamless development that is holistic, and integrated. It unifies us as a community and is unique.

The highlights of the design were pointed out and explained. Attached to these minutes is the concept drawing. Independence Boulevard is north of the park; Goodwood Boulevard is south. The botanical gardens are represented by the dark green areas. The crepe myrtles, the holly and the iris gardens will remain, and the memorial oaks will be preserved. Some of the trees that are on the current Library property will also remain. The new Main Library will sit at the front door of the botanical gardens. A coffee/cyber pavilion containing electronic access and limited food service along with a teaching garden will be run by BREC. The existing BREC Theatre was pointed out. A shared service space will contain the mechanical support, equipment and vehicles for both the Library and BREC. The light green areas represent the soccer fields. Rest rooms are located near the soccer fields and botanical gardens.

Parking lots on the west side of the park will contain 320 spaces while the lots on the east will have 260 spaces. The main parking area for the Library will be located where the current Main Library now stands giving an approximate total of 850 spaces throughout the entire park. Egress points are situated along Lobdell Avenue on the west, along Airport Boulevard on the east and on Independence and Goodwood Boulevards. Transportation nodes represent stops for public transportation. Bicycle traffic will also be accommodated. Activity zones were shown. Visitors to the park can walk on a path around the entire perimeter of the park or can take shorter walks along paths that intersect within the park. Bodies of water will be placed in various parts of the park to act as a unifying feature.

The footprint of the first floor of the library was pointed out. Thought square which is a collaborative idea between the Library and BREC will be located at the front door of the library. It may be raised slightly through the use of steps to give it the appearance of an amphitheatre. Natural light will filter into the building from the north, south and from above. The first floor of the library will contain primary support such as circulation, children's services, meeting rooms and audiovisual services. Reading rooms and patron access will face the botanical gardens on the north; staff areas will face the south. The second floor of the building will contain the same zoning of patron areas facing north and staff facing south.

Mr. Harvey Landry, a member of the community, asked about the third floor of the new library housing the genealogy collection. Mrs. Acosta said that this is not in the plans currently.

Mr. Reed said the new library building will be close enough to the BREC Theatre to make using the theatre convenient. It was noted that a covered walkway has not been addressed. However, parking near the theatre is available for those attending a Library program held at the theatre. At the conclusion of the presentation both the Board and the public in attendance applauded to show their approval of this Library in the Park design.

Mr. Reed noted that today is the last Board meeting that Mrs. Acosta will attend as Library Director. He said they will miss her and could not let her leave Louisiana without something to remind her of her years here. Mr. Reed presented Mrs. Acosta with an engraved clear plexiglas replica of the State of Louisiana containing the Library's logo with the words *Presented to Lydia M. Acosta, Executive Director in Recognition of Her Years of Service to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library 2003 - 2008*. Mrs. Acosta also received a humorous gift from the Board. Ms. Stepteau, former Library Board member had affectionately referred to Mrs. Acosta as the second

*Energizer Bunny* because of her unlimited energy. Therefore, the Board presented Mrs. Acosta with a toy drum and large styrofoam drum sticks for her role as the *Energizer Bunny*.

Mrs. Acosta thanked the Library Board for their tokens of appreciation. She said that she will miss everyone, but will return for the dedication of the Library in the Park. She said that knowing this was her last Board meeting she had asked Mr. Jackson and Mr. Tipton if they could present the concept drawing for the Library in the Park at this meeting.

### **Review and Adoption of the Proposed 2009 Library Budget**

The Library Board then turned their attention to the proposed 2009 Library budget. The Board members had several questions. Mr. Bardwell asked if the budget request summary figure of \$35,148,280 for 2009 reflected what the Library expects to collect in 2009 to which Mrs. Lovett, Library Business Manager answered affirmatively. He then asked if the total library capital improvement figure of \$3,492,920 for 2008 would be transferred to the Main Library construction. Mrs. Lovett explained that of this amount, \$2,126,730 was budgeted for the Main Library, \$1,010,580 was budgeted for the South Baton Rouge Branch and \$355,610 was budgeted for the Fairwood Branch. He also asked if the capital improvements figure of \$6,000,000 was the budgeted amount for the branch library in the southern portion of the parish and the answer was yes. Mrs. Acosta noted that initially the budget figures for the branch library in Rouzan included a two-story building of 20,000 square feet in a condominium arrangement. Now that the Main Library will remain in Independence Park, the size of the branch at Rouzan will decrease because of its proximity to Main.

Mr. Griffin asked about the negative budgeted amount of \$51,580 under the Main Library Buildings account. Mrs. Lovett explained that the budget was adjusted to agree with the recommended budget of the City-Parish Department of Public Works. He asked what is included in the miscellaneous revenue line of the budget. Mrs. Lovett answered that this includes donations, interest earnings, and contingent receipts. Mrs. Acosta said that there are only two new staff positions and one upgrade of a position for the Public Relations Division. An additional vehicle has been requested for the Facilities Manager which is a new position filled in 2008. Mrs. Acosta said that there may be some adjustments of the budget figures if the City-Parish Finance Department recommends them. Mrs. Pinsonat added that there would more than likely be some adjustments before the Metropolitan Council approves the budget for 2009.

Mr. Reed said that under capital outlay a flatbed scanner for the Baton Rouge Room located in the River Center Library has been requested. Mrs. Acosta explained that the Library has hired a librarian archivist, Ms. Melissa Eastin. Ms Eastin had worked at the State Library on a digital collection called Louisiana Gumbo. She will organize and preserve the historic documents and photographs that are part of the history of Louisiana and Baton Rouge. A flatbed scanner is necessary to copy, save and digitally catalog these old, delicate and historic items for future generations.

Mr. John Berry, a member of the community, asked about the budget for the proposed south branch, and whether the size of that branch would be determined in the next five months. Mr.

Reed and Mrs. Acosta explained that an update on the Rouzan development would be on the agenda for the July Library Board meeting. Mr. Berry said he would like to ask that question at the July meeting.

Mr. Berry also asked whether the Board has plans to build out the entire third floor of the new Main Library. Mr. Reed said that they have asked the architects for an estimate of the cost to engineer the first and second floor in order to be able to add square footage to the third floor. Mrs. Acosta added that in this 10-year tax period there are several projects to be completed. They believe that a 100,000 square foot Main Library is an appropriate size for the Library system.

Mr. Bardwell made a motion that the proposed 2009 library budget be adopted. It was seconded by Mr. Griffin and passed unanimously.

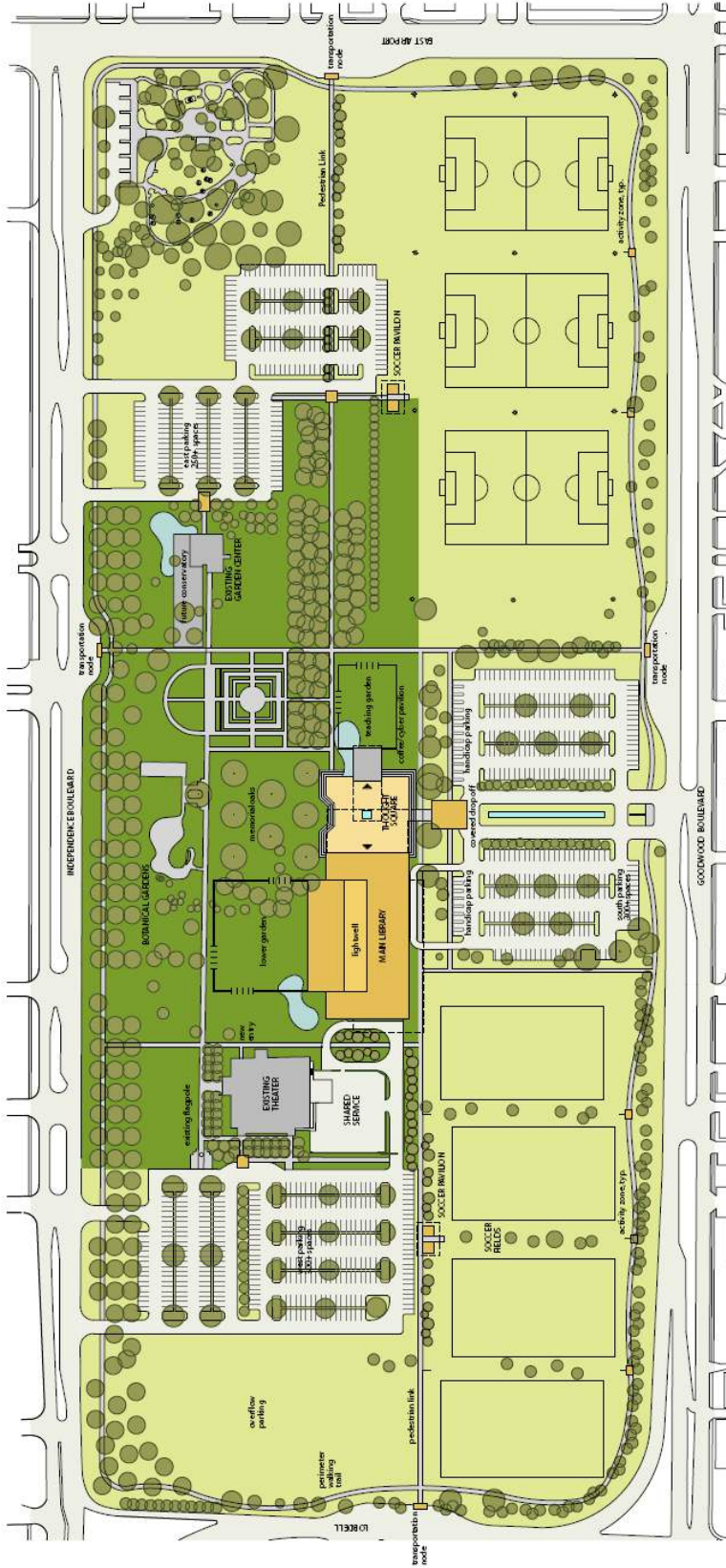
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Colter, seconded by Mr. Browning.

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Dan Reed, President

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Lydia M. Acosta, Director



INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY PARK  
CONCEPT PLAN  
29 May 2008



THE LIBRARY DESIGN COLLABORATIVE  
A JOINT VENTURE

