

**MINUTES
LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

January 15, 2008
5:00 P.M.
Central Library
7111 Talbert Avenue
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

ROLL CALL:

MEMBERS PRESENT: Cox, Kuperberg, Lewis, Miles and Moore

MEMBERS ABSENT: Budwig

STAFF PRESENT: Williams, Blassingame

COUNCIL LIAISONS PRESENT: None

PRESENTATIONS/COMMENDATIONS:

MINUTES: December 18, 2007

CHAIR COX ENTERTAINED A MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED: SO MOVED BY MR. LEWIS AND SO SECONDED BY MR. MILES, THE MINUTES OF DECEMBER 18, 2007 WERE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS: Harold Hall introduced himself to the Library Board members. His appointment to the Library Board is on the January 22, 2008 City Council agenda. Mr. Hall offered that he has been a resident of Huntington Beach for over two years, is a library advocate and wanted to participate in the future of the City library.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: None.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

F-1. Banning Branch Library

Nanci Williams explained that the Board's presentation to the City Council during the January 22nd Study Session has been rescheduled to March 3, 2008. Mr. Kuperberg asked for the reason the presentation was rescheduled. Ms. Williams replied that this was to allow the Board additional time to practice their presentation and to further understand the project they are presenting. She further explained that, due to the changes within the City at this time, the focus of the presentation would also change from an endorsement by the City Council to an informative presentation emphasizing the process which brought the Board to this point, and the need to put it on the table. She stated that at this time, when the question of where the money will come from is asked, the focus will be on the further need to explore what the community desires in a new library branch and not so much on money at this point. Ms. Williams reported that the Southeast Huntington Beach Neighborhood Association had asked for an update to the

project and that she would be showing the revised presentation on February 28th. She re-stated the new goal of the Study Session to be more of a “For Your Information” presentation.

Mr. Miles expressed hesitation in presenting this one plan without having alternatives to present. He is concerned that he doesn’t understand enough of the project and the idea to present. He understands that something needs to be done, but he doesn’t feel comfortable presenting one idea with no options.

Mr. Kuperberg explained that it was his understanding that the idea the Board will be presenting is just an idea, a proposal for a future plan.

Mr. Moore added that the idea to renovate the Banning branch is not a new one, and that this presentation will bring it to the forefront. He also asked Ms. Williams if the Southeast Huntington Beach Neighborhood Association had seen the presentation. She replied that they had not. She had only shown them the concept art, and explained the overall idea.

Mr. Moore distributed a map of Huntington Beach and the current branch locations, and explained that as far as library systems were concerned, California libraries received much less community and state government support than libraries in other states. He referenced the map and indicated where other branches could go to meet the needs of the City of Huntington Beach. He added that citizens consider many different aspects when contemplating the addition of or renovation of a library, such as who might be using it, when the library would be used, the ages of the majority of patrons, and other such considerations. He feels that the Board should also consider these aspects/needs with respect to Banning in order to be more on board (to feel confident in backing this project).

Mr. Kuperberg asked Mr. Miles if he is more nervous about the presentation or the presenter. Mr. Miles feels presenting the information pre-scripted from the Power Point slides would be more a recital than something he understands. He is concerned that he will be asked questions regarding the project for which is he unable to answer. Mr. Miles stated that this presentation might be better presented by a librarian or the designer who developed the concept in the first place.

Mr. Moore asked Chair Cox if she felt confident enough to make the presentation from the slides. She replied that she could make the presentation, but also expressed a lack of confidence in handling background information regarding the more technical aspects of the presentation. Mr. Moore asked Chair Cox some mock questions, like “Does this rendering represent the final library design?” She answered, “No, this is just a concept of the library.” He then asked “If this is just a concept, why does it look so solid?” and she replied, “This is just the first design, an idea.”

Mr. Kuperberg asked about Council support. He suggested that, hypothetically, the Council might mention that the Senior Center project isn’t moving yet, and question why the Board is presenting this new project. He further supplied a probable response that the Southeast Huntington Beach Neighborhood Association, where Banning is located, supports the concept and that the Library Board is presenting the project to ‘get it on the table.’ Mr. Kuperberg added that the Library Board does not expect to build a new library on the Banning site in the next five years, but believes it is necessary to start the ball rolling.

Mr. Moore explained that if another community within Huntington Beach asks, “What about us?” the Board might reply, “We want you on our committee, so we can assist your

neighborhood, too.” He suggested that all responses to negative comments be met with a positive response.

Ms. Williams reminded the Board that this is a conceptual phase, meaning that the Library Board is presenting an idea. She stated that the community will still need to be included in the process of stating their needs, and expressing what they would like in a new library. She added that the project is still in the very early stages, and without this concept, nothing else can follow.

Ms. Blasingame requested permission to offer her perspective. She explained that in listening to all the different viewpoints, she heard that the idea of presenting the project without a solid foundation has certain Board members concerned, and the concept of the library is a necessary part of the process from other Board members. She included the knowledge that at one time the Children’s wing of the Central library was just an idea, and the concept drawing does not look much like the finished project. She added that in order for a community to begin asking questions or providing input, she heard that the community would need something to focus on, and that something would begin with this presentation to the City Council and the conceptual drawing or idea presented by the Library Board of Trustees as supporters, rather than from the Library Director or the Design Firm. She concluded that, as Mr. Miles originally stated, ‘something needs to be done’ and this seems like the best way to begin the process.

Mr. Moore reported that he had recently visited some of the Anaheim libraries and noticed the contrast between the new branches there and the original Central library. He noted Anaheim’s Central library resembled some of Huntington Beach’s branches, while their branches reflected Huntington Beach’s Central library. He suggested that Board members visit some of the other City libraries to see the contrast in each city compared to the Huntington Beach Central library and branches.

Chair Cox expressed a need for more knowledge regarding the information in the presentation as some things are not clear to her. Ms. Williams replied that she is available at any time to answer questions from any member of the Board. She added that Mr. Hayden is making some minor changes to the Power Point presentation, which should be ready by next week, to simplify and focus more on information to the City Council. Ms. Williams will be gathering more information for future presentations.

Mr. Kuperberg reminded the other Board members that Oak View took many years from the idea to the finished product. Ms. Williams added that the Children’s wing took ten years. Mr. Miles expressed a better understanding of the purpose of the presentation to the City Council and thanked everyone for their input.

F-2. Mayor’s Round Table – Dionne Cox

Chair Cox reported on the first Mayor’s Round Table discussion she attended on January 9 at City Hall. She mentioned that the discussion meetings were originally scheduled for every other month, and will now be scheduled on a quarterly basis. Chair Cox explained that introductions were made and that she sat next to Mayor Debbie Cook. She found the Round Table to be very informative as Information Services made a presentation on what goes on in the City, referencing the Surf City web site, www.surfcity-hb.org. She learned that there is a live web came on Tower One, the lifeguard tower located on the pier, and anyone can log in to see the condition of the beach and the surf. She encouraged the Board members to rotate their attendance as many other commissions and boards had multiple members in attendance.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

G-1. Investor Education @ your library – Kathy Blassingame

Ms. Blassingame distributed a packet, included here as Attachment 1 to the Minutes, containing information about an upcoming community program the library is hosting called “Investor Education @ your library.” She explained that the nature of the free, non-commercial program is to increase financial literacy, or awareness, nationwide. She added that the program idea was created by the American Library Association and the Investors Protection Trust, and was developed and is being presented by the Evelyn Brust Foundation. Ms. Blassingame also explained that there would be a 90-minute seminar followed by optional one-on-one counseling sessions for any participants who were interested in asking more specific questions about their individual situations. She concluded that the program is scheduled for Saturday, February 2nd, at 9:00 am, in the Talbert Conference Room of the Huntington Beach Central Library and is open to any interested parties, and if there is a huge response, a second seminar would be scheduled at 1:00 pm.

Other Information Items:

Ms. Blassingame distributed the January/February Children’s programs calendar, as well as information on the Children’s Library and Oak View library programs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library Support Organizations: Ms. Blassingame distributed a program flyer describing the Friends of the Library tea scheduled for February 7th, 2008 at 2:00 pm.

CALTAC: Mr. Moore distributed the 2008 CALTAC membership application which included information on the Northern and Southern California workshops being presented in March. Ms. Blassingame will submit a completed membership application to the Acquisitions department following the January 22nd City Council meeting. He also distributed a printout of the CALTAC web site which is in the process of being revised.

LIBRARY BOARD COMMENTS: None

STAFF COMMENTS: None

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Cox entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kuperberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dionne Cox, Chair