

**Library Board Meeting November
November 15, 2018**

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Library held a regular meeting on November 15, 2018, in the John Bridges Activity Room at Pack Memorial Library. Library Board Members present were Lindley Garner, Raymond Griffin, Michael McCue, Stefan Stackhouse, Barbara Weatherall, and Linda Wilkerson. Also present were Buncombe County staff members Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Jim Blanton, Library Director; Brandon Freeman, Buncombe County Staff Attorney.

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He read the ethics reminder: *In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict.*

Old Business:

A discussion took place on how the Library might obtain access to funds in the Asheville/City Trust Fund.

The Board expressed an interest in revisiting the Library's strategic plan. It was suggested that the trust funds could be a possible source of funding to hire a consultant to assist with the strategic planning process. County Attorney Brandon Freeman indicated that he would take the information to the senior attorney to obtain a legal opinion. Mr. Griffin stated that the Board would be willing to assist as needed.

Mr. Griffin initiated a discussion regarding the Library Board meeting schedule. A motion was made by Mr. McCue to change the meeting time to every other month on the 2nd Thursday at 5:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Mr. McCue praised the North Carolina Room as a venue for special events and as a community resource. He suggested that there is much unexplored potential around programming and marketing of the North Carolina Room and library resources. Mr. McCue expressed the opinion that research should be done on similar library resources across the state, and how service enhancements could be realized for the North Carolina Room. In particular, Mr. McCue felt that the North Carolina Room is an excellent resource to introduce children, parents and newcomers to the community to North Carolina history.

The issue of preserving archival materials in the North Carolina Room was also discussed, particularly that the current fire suppression system could damage materials. Mr. Holland met with the Buncombe County Facilities Director to see what can be done to address the issue. Options for correcting the problem will be incorporated in the Library's capital planning.

A discussion took place regarding future strategic planning priorities. Jim Blanton expressed a desire to engage staff and the community in developing the plan, in order to fully understand community needs and develop a shared vision. Jim Holland added that funding will not halt progress on strategic planning or facility needs.

Ms. Weatherall informed the Board that the East Asheville Library building project would be on the Commissioner's meeting agenda for November 20th. She also shared that a significant number of supporters planned to attend. Jim Holland indicated the project would be a good opportunity to

showcase possibilities for the Library moving forward, and encouraged Board members to attend the meeting.

Jim Holland discussed action steps moving forward in the project schedule, including approvals that must be made by the Commissioners at different stages. He also shared that Buncombe County and the City of Asheville have been consistently meeting and are in agreement with building the library on the chosen site.

Directors Report:

Being new in his role, Jim Blanton had no new information to share. He engaged with the Board on a general discussion regarding what library facilities should offer for the community. Jim Holland also discussed Mr. Blanton's background with library construction projects.

Board Discussion:


Ms. Weatherall shared that the 100th anniversary of Buncombe County Libraries is coming up next year. She indicated a desire to explore a special celebration of this milestone.

Discussion was raised regarding allowance of public comments at Board meetings. It was suggested that the bylaws would need to be amended to implement public comment. Mr. Freeman indicated he will explore amending the bylaws to allow for public comment.

The current Board vacancy posting was discussed, and the group expressed a common interest in increasing Board diversity.

There being no further business, Mr. McCue made a motion to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Minutes Read and approved this the ____ day of _____, 2018.



~~Raymond W. Griffin~~
Library Board Chair

Lindley C. GARNER

Acting



Jim Blanton
Library Director