

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 2, 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 Saturday, May 2, 2009. Mr. Dan Reed, President of the Board, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.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; Ms. Rhonda Pinsonat, Assistant Library Business Manager; Mr. Tim Bankston, Library Facilities Manager; Ms. Liz Zozulin, Executive Assistant to the Library Director; and Ms. Nikki Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office. From The Library Design Collaborative were Mr. Steve Jackson, Mr. Ken Tipton; Ms. Denelle Wrightson, Mr. Benjamin Bradford and Mr. Henry Louth. Representing JTS Realty Services, LLC at this meeting were Mr. Tommy J. Spinosa, and Mr. Brian McCullough, attorney with JTS Realty, LLC. Also present were eight members of the community and Mr. Scott Dyer, reporter with *The Advocate*.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Library Board on April 16, 2009 was unanimously approved on a motion by Mrs. Tomlinson, and seconded by Mr. Browning.

Election of Vice President of Library Board of Control

Mr. Reed noted that Mrs. Katherine Auer, Vice President of the Library Board attended her last Board meeting on April 16, 2009. Since her term of office does not officially end until May 16th, Mr. Reed said that he would like to defer the election of the Vice President of the Board until the May meeting. He added that possibly by that time another Board member will have been appointed by the Metropolitan Council and therefore, that individual would have a vote in the election of a vice president.

Old Business

A. Report on Rouzan Development and Approval of Governance Documents – Mr. Tommy Spinosa – JTS Realty Services, LLC.

Mr. Reed said that at the April 16, 2009 Board meeting, the Board decided to defer until today on voting on the governance documents for the Rouzan Development where a proposed branch library is to be built. Mr. Reed asked Mr. Spinosa to update the Board on the Rouzan Development. Mr. Spinosa said that it has always been the intent of JTS Realty, LLC that the Library be exempt from the Community Development District (CDD).

Mr. Bardwell said that in regard to the Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions (CCR) three issues have been resolved. However, Mr. William A. "Bushy" Aaron, Jr. of the Parish Attorney's office still has an issue to address. Mr. Spinosa told the Board that they will begin construction in Rouzan no later than the fourth quarter of 2009. He added that his design team

has produced the documents that he needs to sign in order for Mr. Mike Sullivan, the architect who will design the library branch, to begin his work which is estimated to take six months to complete. Mr. Bardwell noted that a number of conditions such as the filing of the CCR and the recording of the filing map need to happen. He added that the construction of infrastructure and utilities has been a concern of the Library Board. Mr. Reed said they need roads, sewers and electricity at their library site and he asked when these would be completed to which Mr. Spinosa replied that they can produce a timetable for this.

Mr. Griffin asked when the Library Board and the Library staff would be ready because the start date is our responsibility. Mr. Spinosa said he will start his work even before the Library begins its work, but he added that they did not want to begin too prematurely. Mr. Browning said he thought that they were under a 90-day timetable. He added that this project has been under discussion for four years and nothing has begun, so what is another day?

Mrs. Tomlinson made a motion to approve the CCR document. However, after discussion the Library Board decided to review the CCR document and a timeline before the next Board meeting on May 21, 2009. Mr. Bardwell added that there is still one outstanding issue to be resolved.

Mr. John Berry, a member of the community, said he does not understand the delay in this project. He said one year ago Mr. Spinosa said he would give them a start date for the construction. Mr. Browning also asked for a start date and was given October 2008, then December 2008, and then the first quarter of 2009. He added that they still do not have a start date and he does not understand why Mr. Spinosa has not been held to a date.

Mr. Reed replied that Mr. Berry does understand and has been to all the meetings. Mr. Griffin said this is a different kind of project from all the other Library construction projects. He likened it to climbing a mountain for the first time. He said the site at Rouzan will have "walkability" for the community, and is in the location where the citizens first wanted a branch. He recalled the words of former Board member, Ms. Dorothy Stepteau, when she cited the advantages of having a branch library in a traditional neighborhood development (TND). Mr. Griffin continued that the Board has delayed as much as Mr. Spinosa. He said the delays do not surprise him and that when the project is completed; it is going to be wonderful. Mr. Farrar said he supports what Mr. Griffin has said and that the Library Board has conducted due diligence with this project. Mr. Spinosa has also been forthcoming in his discussions. Mr. Berry said that if Mr. Spinosa had a viable project, he could have begun the project without the Library's approval of these documents.

Mr. Bardwell said that once the last issue is resolved, the filing of the CCR and the recording of the filing map can be done. Mr. Spinosa said he wants the Library's concerns to have been resolved before he files the CCR and records the filing map. Mr. Reed said he is prepared to go forward with a vote, but understands if the other Board members wish to see the CCR document and timeline before they vote. Ms. Freeman said she would like to see these prior to voting. Mr. Spinosa agreed to send these documents to Mr. Farrar so that the Board members can review them prior to the next Board meeting.

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

Mr. Reed said that the Library Board agreed to have this special meeting because there was concern about some of the design concepts for the new Main Library. The Board wishes to discuss these concerns with the architects who may then need to revise some of their ideas. Mr. Steve Jackson introduced Mr. Ken Tipton, Ms. Denelle Wrightson, Mr. Benjamin Bradford and Mr. Henry Louth, the members of The Library Design Collaborative present at this meeting.

Mr. Jackson distributed an agenda for their presentation. He said that there are four contracts involved in the project for the new Main Library in the Park. In 2007 the first contract was signed for his firm, Cockfield Jackson Architects, to assist BREC in producing a master plan for Independence Park with a 14,000 square foot library footprint. The second contract was awarded to The Library Design Collaborative to design a new Main Library in Independence Park. The third contract which is still being developed will be in the form of a cooperative endeavor agreement between BREC and the Library and will outline the roles and responsibilities of each entity in regard to the shared areas. These include the plaza area known as Thought Square and the service yard. Mr. Jackson said that the architects required this cooperative endeavor agreement in order to accept the Library project. The fourth contract is with BREC and is for the design of the cybercafé.

Mr. Farrar said that in regard to the cooperative endeavor agreement, he and Mr. Bill Palmer, Superintendent with BREC met on April 30, 2009. Mr. Farrar told the Board that he will keep them abreast of the discussions and will let them know when they have completed their meetings.

Mr. Jackson then cited the Office of the Mayor-President, the City-Parish Department of Public Works, the Library Board of Control, the staff of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, BREC and The Library Design Collaborative who are all stake holders in this project. The needs and contributions of each of these stake holders must be considered and addressed.

Ms. Freeman asked the architects to explain the document that was created with BREC and the Library outlining each of their needs. Mr. Jackson said BREC is requiring that the soccer fields and the gardens must remain where they are currently located. Ms. Freeman also inquired about the design of only one entrance into the Library. Mr. Tipton said that this concept came about over a year ago. Mr. Ted Jack, landscape architect with BREC, coined the ceremonial entrance into the Library as “Thought Square”. It is equally situated from the Library entrance and the cybercafé and is not a walk through space.

The architects then turned their attention to a description of the design process. A hand-out entitled *Building Process* outlined the key components in the design process. Ms. Denelle Wrightson said she was hired by the Library in 2005 to write a building program for a new Main Library. She said she worked with the staff and they also had community meetings. Building

for the future was an important consideration. The location was discussed and sites in downtown, in mid-City and in other areas were mentioned. Various sizes of the building were studied ranging from 250,000 square feet to 100,000 square feet. Ms. Wrightson said this process is very normal during the pre-design phase of the project.

In December 2007 The Library Design Collaborative was chosen by the City-Parish Architectural Selection Board to design the new Main Library in the Park. The first step in the construction process is the schematic design which generates approximately 15% of the architectural and engineering fees. In this phase the site and budget is confirmed, and several options are designed and studied. One concept is chosen and a model is created.

The next phase is design development, but the architects noted that they do not wish to begin that phase until the Board is satisfied with the schematic design. The design development phase generates approximately 20% of the architectural and engineering fees. All of the design decisions such as furniture, fixtures, finishes, carpeting, electrical and data requirements occur in this phase with a detailed review by Library staff to ensure that the Library's requirements are met.

The construction document process then begins and the architects work very closely with the architects at the Department of Public Works. This phase generates 40% of the architectural and engineering fees. Upon completion of the construction documents, the Library Board authorizes the bidding process in order to hire a contractor to construct the building.

The bidding process and negotiations with the contractor generate 5% of the architectural and engineering fees. Ms. Wrightson emphasized that now is a good time for the construction of the library because the cost of building materials has gone down and many contractors are bidding for these jobs due to the economic downturn. Ms. Wrightson added that bidding on furniture occurs about eight months before the completion of the building so that the delivery of the furniture coincides with the completion of the interior of the building. This also applies to the purchase of technology such as phones and computers for which the Library wants state of the art materials.

The construction administration phase generates 40% of the architectural and engineering fees. The architects meet regularly with the contractors to ensure construction to the specifications of the construction documents. At the end of construction, a date is planned for the dedication of the building and a final walk through is scheduled.

The project closeout phase includes completing punch lists and engaging in a commissioning agent to ensure that all of the work is completed correctly. A move-in date is set for occupancy. Eleven months after the building is occupied a final walk through is done to address any adjustments or deficiencies in the construction.

Mr. Ken Tipton thanked the Library Board for requesting this meeting to answer the Board's questions and listen to their concerns. He discussed the chronology of events regarding the design of the new Main Library. He noted that when the decision was made to locate the new Main Library in Independence Park, BREC's Master Plan had to be revised to accommodate a

footprint of 42,000 square feet for the library building. A “butterfly” design for the building was discussed at that time. In December 2007 The Library Design Collaborative made a presentation to the City-Parish Architectural Selection Board of their proposal for the design of the Main Library. Mr. Tipton said that two of the Library Board members were in attendance for this presentation. He said that they discussed five concepts for this building which were the following:

- Integrated with the Park,
- An object in the Park,
- A portal to the Park,
- A pavilion in the Park and,
- A Park in the Library.

Mr. Reed who was present at this presentation said these concepts gave him, as a non-architect, ideas about how this Main Library would function in the park. Mr. Bardwell asked how these concepts are in the current schematic design. Mr. Tipton replied that parts of all these concepts are in the schematic design. He cited “Thought Square” as a portal, the north side of the building as an object and the green screens as the park in the library.

Mr. Farrar said that the questions about their design are answered in the presentation of their proposal. Mr. Tipton said they met with BREC and the Library to discuss site considerations and restrictions. Mrs. Tomlinson, Ms. Freeman and Mr. Reed said they had not understood how the architects had arrived at the schematic design they presented in February 2009. The architects noted that the schematic design was produced from the five concepts listed above.

Mr. Tipton then said that they engaged the Library Director, Mrs. Lydia Acosta, the Library staff and BREC staff in program benchmarking which is a tool to analyze the range of certain concepts of the project. Benchmarking also analyzes the gap in the concepts in the existing building versus the proposed building. Mr. Tipton said the architects then study the differences in the ideas and close the gap between these two groups. Mr. Bardwell said that the Library Board was not involved in these discussions with the Library and BREC staffs. Mr. Farrar responded that this is fairly typical for the staff to complete this exercise and Mr. Tipton agreed.

From the benchmark exercises, guiding principles were developed with Library and BREC staff input. Four guiding principles were developed which are fundamental to the project. They are the following:

- thought park – a play on words,
- seamless development – no boundaries between the Library and the Park,
- unify – for all members of the community and,
- an unique experience – for East Baton Rouge Parish.

These principles aided the design team in producing the schematic design of the building. The architects told the Board that if the Library Board wishes to see a change in the schematic design, then the design team will need to make a fundamental change in their thinking on the project.

Mr. Tom DuBos, a member of the community, said that he is distressed with the schematic design. He said that originally the library was to be the center of the Park, but now it appears that BREC has more authority in the final decisions than the Library. Mr. Tipton responded that the relationship between the Library and BREC has been a healthy, collaborative one. Mr. Reed added that Mr. DuBos does not like the way the design was made which is causing his distress. Mr. Bardwell said the current design does not put forth the Library's service to the public and he thinks this is what Mr. DuBos is saying.

Ms. Betty Toepfro, a member of the community, asked to address the Board. She said she is handicapped and is here to speak for herself and other handicapped citizens who might not be able to come to this meeting or who would be intimidated to speak. She said she was born in Baton Rouge and remembers the first library in the Sheriff's Department with Ms. Barrow as librarian. She also remembers when the site where they are today was the Baton Rouge Airport. She added that she is proud of the effort put forth to design this new Main Library. But she noted that parking for the handicapped is too far from the entrance to the library in the current schematic design.

Mr. Tipton then discussed the site utilization studies in March 2008 which explored how the property was to be used. The architects presented 20 different diagrams of where the library building would be in Independence Park. These diagrams placed the library on the east side, the west side and in the center of the park with the center location as the best approach because it offered the most options. This location was approved by the Library staff and BREC. It was noted that the roads within the park for vehicle traffic and multiple entrances were removed. Mr. Reed added that the location of the library building was slightly off center and closer to the BREC Theatre to facilitate the use of the theatre for library programming.

Mr. Tipton said that site utilization studies then occurred which defined the entrance to the library building, "Thought Square" as a public plaza, the cybercafé and the gardens. The service yard was a significant part of this study. Mr. Reed said that on May 29, 2008 the Library Board approved this design. It was noted that the BREC Commission approved the Independence Park Master Plan on May 22, 2008.

Mr. Bardwell said he recalled that at one point Mr. Palmer did not want an entrance to the library from Goodwood Boulevard, but rather that this area would become soccer fields. Mr. Tipton said that BREC would not agree to the roads through the park and did not want the site to become a drive through area. Therefore, the entrance and parking for the Library were designed from Goodwood Boulevard. He added that BREC also preserved their gardens and soccer fields. The park can be used without automobile traffic. Ms. Wrightson added that the current design actually brings the parking closer to the library building. Mr. Reed asked the architects if BREC had also said that the road through the park would be too expensive to build to which Mr. Tipton and Mr. Jackson agreed.

Mr. Tipton said that this location for the library building is a win for everyone. He noted that the site for the building is on top of an old runway and a storm drain lateral. He also pointed out the area near the Library building which is designated for the pick up and return of library materials which was a comprise by BREC. Mr. Bardwell said that he is very impressed with the

architectural team as they have worked through the challenges of this project. Mr. Tipton added that he feels they have explained the relationships and how the project evolved to this point. Mr. Farrar added that he is in constant communication with the architects, and speaks with Mr. Jackson frequently. Mr. Jackson replied that he and Mr. Tipton have lived in Baton Rouge all of their lives and as such they personally care about this project, and that Ms. Wrightson has dedicated her career to designing libraries.

The schematic design phase of the project began on July 14, 2008. Ms. Wrightson then discussed the design charrettes that were held with the Library staff which resulted in three library design options. On August 14, 2008 a public forum was held in which the public could view the three design options with the architects and Library staff present to answer questions and record suggestions made by the public. Option C was the preferred one. In this option the building is linear with light and the park pushing itself into the building. The service areas are aligned on the south side of the building, and the meeting rooms flow into the oak groves and the public plaza (thought square). She noted that the Library staff expressed concerns about monitoring on the second floor. The roof space was discussed and an inverted roof was not supported. The public wanted flexibility and the ability to build out the third floor. BREC staff liked this design option. Ms. Toepfro asked if all barrier-free laws are being met including handicapped parking in this design to which Ms. Wrightson said yes. She added that the whole site conforms to barrier-free regulations.

On August 21, 2008 the Library Board voted to add square footage to the building to relocate the Genealogy Department, the Baton Rouge Room and the Career Center to the new Main Library. Ms. Wrightson explained the process in determining where these three additional departments would be situated in the new Main Library. Ms. Stein said it is important to look carefully where departments are located and to share staff where possible. In the Library budget, operations is the most expensive item with staff salaries and benefits being the most expensive part of operations. Over the lifetime of employees, staff cost exceeds the cost of the library building itself. Ms. Wrightson said she and the library staff looked at many options and chose the option that would be best for the patrons and staff. Ms. Wrightson noted that in four library systems she has been asked to relocate the genealogy department from a top floor to a location with other adult services because people did not know of or use the genealogy department on the top floor.

Ms. Wrightson said to accommodate the additional departments in the new Main Library design, they moved the teen division to the first floor. The genealogy department and the Baton Rouge Room were placed on the second floor near the Reference Division to facilitate the sharing of staff and equipment. The Career Center was placed on the first floor. The guiding principle was to give the best possible service to the patrons in the most cost effective way. The Library Board approved this design change. Mr. DuBos asked what the total square footage is for this revised building to which Ms. Wrightson replied 119,156 square feet.

Mr. Griffin had a prior commitment and at 11:30 a.m. left the Board meeting.

Comments by the Library Board of Control

Mr. Reed then said that the remainder of the meeting would be dedicated to questions and comments for the architects by the Library Board. Mr. Bardwell said that if they cannot change the schematic design, then there is no need for further discussion about that. Mr. Bardwell said that he did have some broad questions and observations to make. He said there should be a place to drop patrons off in the same location as the book drop, and a door on the south side of the building for patrons to enter the library. He thought that door should be the main entrance into the building and that the building itself should be centered in relation to the parking lot. He understands that this would encroach upon the park, but Thought Square is the antithesis for the Library. He would also like to see a covered walk-way for the handicapped.

Mr. Tipton confirmed with Mr. Bardwell that a covered area is important. Mr. Bardwell said they would like to be able to drop patrons off right at the front door. The Bluebonnet Regional Branch and the Greenwell Springs Road Regional Branch Libraries have such entrances. It was noted that this arrangement works at these facilities because they are branch libraries as opposed to this being the Main Library. Mr. Tipton said if they can not be dropped off at the door, then the need to protect patrons to the door is an issue. Ms. Wrightson noted that these are two separate issues. Mr. Reed said that Mr. Bardwell is concerned with cover and the distance to walk. Mr. Bardwell said that handicapped patrons who drive to the library need to be able to park close to the building.

Mr. Tipton confirmed that Mr. Bardwell wanted the building entrance to be separate from the plaza (Thought Square). Mr. Bardwell replied that he is asking the architects to change the location of the entrance. Mrs. Tomlinson said that an entrance from Thought Square is a guiding principle in the design. Mr. Reed added that a change in the entrance location will change the plaza from an integral part of the design to an aside. Mr. Tipton said if they are required to make this change in the entrance, it will unravel many of the pre-design discussions.

Ms. Wrightson addressed having two entrances by saying a fundamental in library design is that there should only be one entrance for security reasons. Mr. Bardwell replied that the current design is not user friendly. Ms. Freeman said that they have a mission to serve the public and to design a building that will be functional for patrons. She added that they have to serve and if the location of the entrance does not meet that objective, then the design does not matter. Mr. Reed cited a shopping mall where parking is a distance from the mall entrance. Ms. Freeman replied that the target market for a mall is different from the target market for a library.

Ms. Wrightson said that part of coming to the library is the experience. Everyone is equal and should experience the same entrance through the park. Mr. Browning asked how far the handicapped parking is from the entrance to which the architects replied 150 feet and 350 feet for the non-handicapped parking. Mr. Jackson said that the parking and the building must be in the area where they are currently located. Mr. Tipton said that the design potential to experience the park should be left in tact. He added that they can't design so that patrons can be dropped off right at the door, but they can address the concern of a covered area and the distance from the door to the parking lots. A question was asked about staff parking to which the architects said the staff would park in the lot on the other side of the BREC Theatre.

Mr. Browning said that they have had to call for this special meeting today because there has been a failure on the part of the Board, BREC and the architects. Mr. Tipton said the BREC has not mandated where the handicapped parking must be located. Mr. Reed replied that the amount of parking has always been a point of contention and it always will be. Mr. Tipton asked Mr. Browning about his concerns to which Mr. Browning replied that the distance to walk from the parking lot to the building is not good for patrons.

Mr. Bardwell then said that he wants the additional 15,000 square feet designed for the third floor. This would reduce the footprint of the building and enable them to have more flexibility in the parking lot. Mr. Reed replied that the reason Mr. Bardwell is suggesting this is because he does not like the way the building looks. Mr. Browning said nobody he has spoken to likes the design. Mrs. Tomlinson noted that they had public meetings and had input from the public in regard to the design. Mr. DuBos said he believes the Library Board has never supported the design. He said there have been questions raised at the last three Board meetings and there was not a definitive vote in favor of the design. Mr. Bardwell said that the Board acquiesced to the schematic design, but they only received some definite design ideas recently.

Mr. Bardwell again said that he would like the additional 15,000 square feet to be located on the third floor. Mrs. Tomlinson replied that if they change the footprint, they change the areas inside which changes adjacencies. Mr. Jackson said the size of collections also affects where departments are placed. Ms. Wrightson asked if Mr. Bardwell wants the Baton Rouge Room, the Genealogy Department and the Career Center on the third floor. Mr. Bardwell replied that he doesn't care where they are placed, but that the third floor should contain the additional 15,000 square feet. Ms. Wrightson said that they need to look at how these new spaces interact with the other departments for their proper location. This will bring the design work back to the core planning that was done at the beginning of the project. Mr. Reed said it sounds like they are saying put the additional 15,000 square feet on the third floor so that the building is a square box. Mr. Bardwell said this meeting was scheduled so that the Board could tell the architects what they want and then the architects would make the changes.

Ms. Stein said that the current building has a footprint of 50,000 square feet. The footprint of the new building is not much different. Mr. Tipton said that what makes the new building unique is that they not only get a library experience, but also a park experience. Ms. Freeman replied that if the entrance is unique, but it is not functional this is not acceptable. Mr. Bardwell said he advocates for the practical and not for an abstract approach.

Mr. Reed then said that in 2005 prior to the library tax renewal election, the Library Board voted to favor a downtown location for the new Main Library. Mr. Reed did not vote for a location preference. Mr. Reed said after the election there was continued controversy over the location for the Main Library. It was then decided to build the new library in Independence Park. Mr. Reed continued that when they decided to build the library in Independence Park, it resulted in the need to compromise with BREC. He said he understands the concerns expressed today, but that some of these issues can not be changed such as removing Thought Square. Mr. Tipton summarized that the fundamental issue is one of real estate and the design of the building. Mr. Bardwell said that prior to Mr. Farrar's arrival he had a disagreement with the Library staff about

the design of the new Main Library. Mr. Bardwell said that Mr. Browning and Ms. Freeman and he have issues with the current design.

Ms. Wrightson said that the two fundamental issues of adding 15,000 square feet of public space to the third floor and the location of the front door, takes them back to their early discussions about this project. Mrs. Tomlinson said her question is what is the financial implication of going back to re-design the building. Approximately \$500,000 has already been paid to the architects for their work. Ms. Lovett added that they need to consider the fact that construction costs are low now due to the economic down turn. If more time is taken to re-design the building, construction costs could escalate again driving up the cost of the project.

Mr. DuBos asked about the size of Thought Square and the size of the foot print of the proposed building. The architects said that Thought Square is 40,000 square feet and the library footprint is 53,000 square feet. Mr. DuBos asked what problem BREC would have with their moving the library building. The architects said this would not be possible because of the oak grove also known as the Mayor's trees. Mrs. Smith, a member of the community, asked if it would be possible to place the meeting rooms within the main building rather than as an extension off the main building to which Mr. Tipton said yes. Mr. Tipton said the architects thought they were explaining the design clearly, but if they haven't done that, then they need to do that now. Ms. Freeman asked who is paying for Thought Square to which Mr. Tipton replied that the cost will be shared equally by the Library and BREC. Ms. Wrightson said the reason for this equally shared cost is because Thought Square will be a programming area for the Library.

Mr. Browning said that he thought adding the additional 15,000 square feet to the third floor was important. Mr. Jackson replied that at a prior Board meeting he told the Board that once their design was approved, the architects would calculate the cost for the build out of the third floor. Mr. Jackson reminded the Board that an increase in the total square footage of the building will necessitate additional parking spaces. BREC will not allow the Library to add more parking. Mr. Reed asked Mr. Browning why he wants three equal floors. He added that the fundamental concept from the earliest design discussions was to have two floors of public space and a third floor for administration. He also repeated that they do not want to split collections between floors. Ms. Wrightson again emphasized that from her experience, placing the Genealogy Department by itself on the third floor isolates it and decreases patron usage. The Genealogy Department should be adjacent to the Reference Division because of their need to share staff and materials, and for security of patrons and staff. Ms. Husband noted that the Genealogy Department currently employs only three full-time and one quarter time staff members because they are located adjacent to Reference.

Mr. Berry said that the magic word in this discussion is expansion. He noted that they started with a 100,000 square foot building, then they added an additional 15,000 square feet, but expansion has not been mentioned. He said he's interested in the forty-year functional life of the building. He said in the future they will need more space. Mr. Reed asked Mr. Jackson to explain where they are in regard to expansion. Mr. Jackson said that they cannot expand because BREC will not allow them to increase the size of the parking lot. Mrs. Tomlinson asked if Thought Square was designed to be used for Library programming to which the architects said yes. A patron asked if there are a required number of parking spaces based on the size of the

building. Mr. Tipton replied that there are a mandated number of parking spaces for a library. Ms. Wrightson added that there is also an overlap of parking on the site for BREC and Library patrons in this design.

Mr. Berry continued to discuss building expansion. He said they need to plan now for where they will want to expand in the future. Ms. Wrightson replied that one cannot plan that many years ahead. The types of collections and materials found in public libraries are rapidly changing. She said, for example, microfilm and videos are being replaced by newer technology. Hard copies of reference materials are being replaced by electronic sources. Young adults are obtaining their information in different ways. As collections die, other resources will take their place. She said in her experience of 100 libraries that built for expansion in the future, only one actually built out. Mr. Berry said if the build out was not used for additional materials, it could be used for meeting rooms. Ms. Wrightson replied that there are a sufficient number of meeting rooms planned for the new Main Library. She added that the East Baton Rouge Parish Library is the best library system in Louisiana. The branches have plenty of meeting room facilities.

Mr. Bardwell asked that the meeting be brought to a close for the day. He said the purpose of the meeting was to ask questions that the public has and to enable the professionals to respond. He again said that if the footprint of the building were smaller, then the issue of additional parking spaces would be resolved. He also said an area close to the building for patron drop off and pick up are important. Mr. Tipton said these concerns can be resolved by re-designing. Ms. Wrightson noted that most main libraries resolve distance issues by providing carts for patrons similar to those found in grocery stores. Mr. Bardwell said he doesn't care to experience the park. Mr. Browning said people are telling him they want more of a traditional building, and that the Board lives and dies by the public's opinion. Mrs. Tomlinson replied that there are a huge number of people that like the current design. She said she is in awe of what the architects have done. Mr. Reed said that he personally likes the design and that the patrons who will enjoy this building in thirty years are not the ones who will enjoy it today.

Mr. Farrar thanked the Patrons of the Public Library (POPL) for providing food and refreshments for today's and tomorrow's meetings.

Mr. Jackson asked what the Board wished to see tomorrow as a result of today's meeting. Mr. Reed said they would like the handicapped parking to be closer to the building and to look at the possibility of covered walkway from the handicapped parking area to the main entrance. Mr. Bardwell asked that they look at altering the windows so that they don't need screens. He asked why they need screens at all to which Mr. Tipton said because the screens bring the park into the library. Mr. Browning asked that either Mr. Reed or Mr. Farrar be present at every meeting with BREC and that a report be given to the other Board members through e-mail.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:40 p.m. on a motion by Mrs. Tomlinson, seconded by Ms. Freeman.

Dan Reed, President

David Farrar, Library Director