

Revised Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee of the
East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control

July 9, 2007

The fifth meeting of the Finance Committee of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Carver Branch Library on Monday, July 9, 2007. Mr. Dan Reed, Chairman of the Committee, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Stephen Moret, and Ms. Dorothy Stepteau, members of the Committee were present. Also in attendance were Mr. Stanford O Bardwell, Jr., a member of the Library Board of Control; Mrs. Lydia M. Acosta, Library Director; and Mrs. Brenda Lovett, Library Business Manager; Mr. Steve Jackson, Architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects; 7 members of the community; and Mr. Scott Dyer of *The Advocate*.

The minutes of the meeting of June 7, 2007 were unanimously approved on a motion by Ms. Stepteau seconded by Mr. Moret after a typographical correction was made. Mr. Reed welcomed those in attendance.

Mr. Reed asked Mrs. Lovett to produce a projection for this meeting with one roll forward in 2008, and no roll forward in 2012. In this projection the property taxes are calculated at 11.1 mills through 2011. Then from 2012 to the end of the tax period in 2016 the millage rolls back to 10.77. Mrs. Lovett produced an additional projection with no roll forward. Under this projection a deficit occurs in 2014. In both projections the interest earnings were calculated at 2.89%. The calculations assumed the construction of a new 20,000 square foot Perkins Road Branch to open in July 2010; a new 95,192 square foot Main Library at Goodwood Boulevard to open in July 2010; a new 14,000 square foot East Branch Library to open in July 2010 and the budgeting for a new 45,000 square foot Downtown Branch in 2010 and opening in July, 2012.

A discussion followed about the next course of action. Mrs. Acosta verified that the Library is still able to make changes to the Capital Improvement Projects portion of the budget until the beginning of August. Therefore, Mrs. Acosta asked the Finance Committee members if they wished to propose a revision to the CIP portion of the proposed 2008 Budget. Mr. Reed responded that there were not sufficient funds in this tax period to construct and operate all four of the planned facilities. Therefore, the Capital Improvement Projects should be revised in the 2008 proposed Budget. Mrs. Acosta added that the funding for the new Main Library and the southern branch could be budgeted for 2008 because funding was already in place for these facilities.

Mr. Moret asked whether the construction of the Perkins Road Branch (southern branch) could occur in 2008. Mrs. Acosta answered that the Library could begin work on this branch because the Library had already saved the money in the previous tax period to pay for the construction of the building. Mrs. Acosta added that the full Library Board must approve the budget revisions at the July 19th meeting.

Ms. Stepteau raised the question of the proposed square footage of 20,000 for the southern branch. She said to her knowledge no population study has been done to determine if 20,000 square feet is an appropriate size for the population there. She is concerned about equity throughout the Library system. She recalled that when the new Eden Park Branch Library was planned, initially the building was going to be built in a storefront with 5,000 square feet of space. The constituents of that area found that to be unacceptable. Therefore, the size of the building was increased to 12,000. With much discussion and effort, a 16,000 square foot building was proposed. The Library Board voted to build this branch with 14,000 square feet of space. Mr. Reed said he appreciated Ms. Stepteau's concern, but Mr. Spinoso's concept is of a 20,000 square foot building with a footprint of 10,000 square feet.

Mr. Reed suggested that the Finance Committee recommend to the Library Board that the eastern branch library be removed from the 2008 Capital Improvement Projects account. Ms. Stepteau was concerned about what the reaction might be of Metropolitan Councilman Mike Walker in whose district this branch is to be built. Mr. Moret added that the Library Board would merely be planning for this branch at a later date and not permanently deleting it from consideration. Mr. Moret then moved to recommend to the Library Board of Control that they revise the 2008 Budget under the Capital Improvement Projects account by removing the construction of the eastern branch library. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stepteau and unanimously approved. Mrs. Acosta asked Mr. Reed to speak to Councilman Walker about this new proposal.

In other business Mr. Reed asked Mrs. Acosta about the scheduling of the public meeting with Ms. Denelle Wrightson, an architect with PSA-Dewberry of Dallas, Texas who has been creating the building program for the new Main Library in Independence Park. The meeting will be held on Monday, August 27, 2007 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the BREC Independence Park Theatre. Ms. Wrightson plans to use a PowerPoint presentation to discuss the building program. Mr. Jon Emerson, Landscape Architect with BREC will also be present to answer questions about the re-design of Independence Park. After this meeting Ms. Wrightson will revise her building program as needed. It is anticipated that the final version of the building program will be completed so that the Library Board of Control can approve it at the regular September Board meeting.

Mr. Reed recognized three members of the public who had questions. Mr. Tom DuBos expressed concern over the delay in starting the construction of the new Main Library. Mrs. Acosta responded that the Library is ready to take the next step in the construction process. At the July 19, 2007 Library Board meeting, Mr. Bill Palmer, Superintendent of BREC will be present to ask the Library Board to endorse the "Park-Library Concept for the BREC Independence Park Master Site Plan". Mr. DuBos asked Mrs. Lovett to give a summary of why the millage rate is rolled back which she did.

Mr. John Berry, another member of the community, asked about the interest earnings rate of 2.89% used in the projections, and whether we could get a higher rate on the earnings. Mrs. Acosta replied that that is the highest rate that the City-Parish Finance Department will allow in the projections. Mr. Berry asked about the public meeting in August and whether the new Main Library will be the only topic discussed. Mrs. Acosta said that will be the only topic for that

meeting. Mr. Berry said he hopes that the public will have sufficient time to speak and make their suggestions known. He concluded by saying he would like the public to see the plans so far for the new Main Library, and also to see a schedule for the building of the new Main Library, so that progress can be charted. Mrs. Acosta said a schedule can be produced by the Library, but much of the construction time scheduling is carried out by the City-Parish and is out of the Library's direct control.

Mrs. Smith, another member of the community, asked if the Library will be given land from Mr. Spinosa to build a southern branch library to which Mrs. Acosta replied that the Library believes the land donation will occur. Ms. Stepteau asked whether the Board should notify the donors of the Burbank property of the possibility of building the southern branch on Perkins Road. Mrs. Acosta said she will speak to Mr. John Carnahan, former President of the Library Board, to ask him to set up a meeting for this purpose.

At the next Finance Committee meeting naming rights and a feasibility study will be discussed. Mr. Reed said that most libraries around the country do not name an entire building after an individual. Mrs. Acosta and Mr. Moret felt that naming a building for an individual should be considered. The meeting concluded with the scheduling of the next Finance Committee meeting for Thursday, August 7, 2007 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. All meetings are open to the public.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:55 p.m. on a motion by Ms. Stepteau, seconded by Mr. Moret.

Dan Reed, Committee Chairman

Lydia M. Acosta, Director