

REVISED AGENDA  
FOR REGULAR 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**  
FEBRUARY 21, 2008  
4:00 P.M.

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF JANUARY 17, 2008

III. REPORTS BY THE DIRECTOR

- A. FINANCIAL REPORT
- B. SYSTEM REPORT
- C. OTHER REPORTS – EAST BRANCH LIBRARY DONATION – MRS. ACOSTA AND MR. BARDWELL

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT-SAFE PLACE – MS. NIKKI ESSIX – PARISH ATTORNEY

V. NEW BUSINESS

- A. REPORT ON CONSTRUCTION OF NEW MAIN LIBRARY – MR. STEVE JACKSON, COCKFIELD-JACKSON ARCHITECTS
- B. DISCUSSION OF INITIATION OF ARCHITECT SELECTION PROCESS, EAST BRANCH LIBRARY DESIGN

VI. COMMENTS BY THE LIBRARY BOARD OF CONTROL

**ALL MEETINGS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

## Minutes of the Meeting of the

### East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control

February 21, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board of Control was held at the Carver Branch Library on Thursday, February 21, 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. and Ms. Dorothy Stepteau. Also in attendance were Mrs. Lydia M. Acosta, Library Director; Mrs. Patricia Husband, Assistant Library Director of Branch Services; Mrs. Mary Stein, Assistant Library Director of Administration; Mrs. Brenda Lovett, Library Business Manager; Mrs. Rhonda Pinsonat, Assistant Library Business Manager, and Ms. Nikki Essix of the Parish Attorney's Office. Also present were Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects, Mr. Scott Dyer, reporter with *The Advocate* and six members of the community. Absent from the meeting was Board member, Mr. Stephen Moret.

The minutes of the regular meeting of the Library Board on January 17, 2008 were unanimously approved on a motion by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Mrs. Auer with one correction under *Reports by the Director*. The sentence, "The gate count at the Eden Park Branch Library is also affected by area youth coming in and out of the branch to use the water fountain", was added to the discussion of the gate count statistics.

Mr. Reed requested that the Board amend the agenda to delete the item under *Old Business, Cooperative Endeavor Agreement-Safe Place-Ms. Nikki Essix*. Mr. Alvin Smith, Executive Director of Youth Oasis, spoke to Mrs. Acosta about removing the discussion of Safe Place from the agenda. Mr. Smith has decided to meet with Mayor Holden to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement for the implementation of the Safe Place program at the East Baton Rouge Parish Library. Mr. Bardwell made a motion to delete this item on the agenda; Mrs. Auer seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

### **Reports by the Director**

Mrs. Acosta referred to the Cash Collections report as of January 9, 2008 with total cash received on property taxes and interest in the amount of \$29,789,150.54 for the year 2007; and to the Cash Collections report as of February 13, 2008, with total cash received on property taxes and interest in the amount of \$27,041,418.12 for the year 2008. System reports included statistics for January 2008 for Circulation, Gate Count, Reference Questions Answered, and Library and Database Usage.

Mrs. Acosta said that the Library held the Kick-Off event for the Big Read: One Book/One Community program on Saturday, February 9, 2008. This event began the community reading of the book, *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. The highlight of the program was a live phone call with Mr. Bradbury from his home in Los Angeles. He talked about the writing of *Fahrenheit 451* and his latest book to be published this year. One of his notable comments was

about the importance of the public library in his life and that “he graduated from the library at the age of 28”. Following the viewing of the 1966 film *Fahrenheit 451*, a panel discussion about the book and about censorship followed. The members of the panel included Mrs. Beth Courtney, Executive Director and CEO of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Mr. Clay Fourrier, Executive Producer of Louisiana Public Broadcasting, Mr. Danny Heitman, editorial staff writer for *The Advocate*, and Mr. Derek Gordon, Executive Director of the Arts Council of Greater Baton Rouge. Louisiana Public Broadcasting will televise a tape of this panel discussion on Channel 11 tonight and on Monday, February 25, 2008. Cox Communications is providing \$30,000 in advertising to promote the *Fahrenheit 451* program. The finale of this spring’s Big Read program will be another panel discussion in April.

Mrs. Acosta noted that the Library is continuing the Jazz series at Chelsea’s this year. Cox Communications has agreed to again assist in funding this program. Last night Simon Lott was the featured performer.

### **New Business-Discussion of Initiation of Architect Selection Process, East Branch Library Design**

Mr. Bardwell asked that a discussion of the initiation of the architect selection process for the East Branch Library be placed on today’s agenda. Kodiak Equipment, LLP has purchased the site of the former Fairway Country Club on Old Hammond Highway. Kodiak Equipment, LLP has donated a tract of land from this site to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library for the construction of a branch library. The donors are aware that the Library Board is committed to building a branch on the property. The branch is projected to open in 2016 per the Library’s Ten-Year Capital Improvements Program. Mr. Mike Perry, an attorney with Walker Jones law firm is representing the donor. Mr. William Aaron of the Parish Attorney’s Office is representing the City-Parish and is working with Mr. Perry on the required paperwork to finalize this donation.

The donors have expressed concern about the maintenance of the property by the Library until the actual construction can begin. Mr. Bardwell said that the donors would like a stronger commitment from the Library. Mr. Perry feels that an agreement stipulating a timetable by the Library would express a sufficient commitment. Mr. Bardwell feels that their request is reasonable and that it would be tragic if an agreement cannot be made resulting in the cancellation of the donation. Mr. Bardwell said that the initiation of the architect selection process could be an additional incentive to satisfy the donor’s desire for a commitment by the Library. He would like to make as many good faith gestures as possible.

Mrs. Acosta responded that she has been in communication with Mr. Perry about this concern. She said that the Library has the resources to keep the site mowed and clear until construction begins. A sign will also be erected and maintained noting that this is the future site of the East Library Branch.

Mrs. Acosta said that in order to initiate the architectural selection process, the Library Board would need to decide on the size of the branch, at for example, 14,000 square feet. Then a building program would need to be written. Unlike the Burbank/Perkins Road Branch

construction, this east branch was not planned for in this current ten-year tax renewal period. She added that Metropolitan Councilman Mike Walker of District 8 and the donors understand our budget timetable. Mrs. Acosta said that Mr. Walker has even promised to spearhead the request to roll forward the millage rate for the Library in 2008 which is critical to meet the Library's fiscal promises. Ms. Stepteau said she would be agreeable with a 14,000 square foot branch. She added that the Eden Park Branch is 14,000 square feet and is well utilized by patrons.

Mrs. Gayle Smith, a member of the community, asked if the Library could reallocate the funds from another project to begin this branch construction. Mr. Reed responded that the Board has made a commitment to the taxpayers to follow the timetable and complete the projects that were promised prior to the tax election in 2005. Mrs. Lovett, Library Business Manager, explained that the Library can only accelerate a construction project if we have the resources to staff and operate the branch. Mr. Reed concluded the discussion by saying that projections now illustrate that in the next ten-year tax period the Library, even with no new construction, will need a millage increase to maintain and staff the facilities we have.

#### **New Business-Report on Construction of New Main Library-Mr. Steve Jackson, Cockfield Jackson Architects**

Mr. Steve Jackson, architect with Cockfield Jackson Architects gave an oral report to the Library Board on the activities surrounding the initial work of designing the new Main Library in the Park. He thanked the Board on behalf of himself, Mr. Ken Tipton of Tipton Associates and Ms. Denelle Wrightson of PSA Dewberry for the Board's confidence in them to design and manage the construction of this building. These architects have formed The Library Design Collaborative to work on this project. He stated that they have begun working without a contract in place. They have had an initial meeting with Mrs. Acosta, Mr. Jim Frey of the City-Parish Department of Public Works and Mr. Bob Abbott of the Parish Attorney's Office regarding contract provisions such as professional liability insurance, fee structure, and scope of work. They have also met with their attorney regarding the formation of their business entity.

Yesterday a meeting was held at the BREC Administration Building with Mrs. Acosta and Mr. Bill Palmer, Superintendent of BREC to review and finalize the scope of work as outlined in BREC's park program. Mr. Palmer has asked Mr. Jackson to work with them in the development of the park plans. Mr. Jon Emerson, of Emerson & Associates, Inc. was the landscape architect who worked for BREC on the design for the renovation of Independence Park. Mr. Emerson will be part of the design team for the Library in the Park. Mr. Jackson noted that The Library Design Collaborative will oversee the project to ensure that the expenses charged to the Library are fair and within the budget set by the Library Board.

Mr. Jackson went on to say that the scope of work will include architectural design; structural, mechanical, electrical and civil engineering; cost estimating; production of multiple bid packages including furnishings; construction administration; oversight of demolition processes; and project close-out and final acceptance of the building by the Library.

Mr. Jackson, Mr. Tipton and Ms. Wrightson are planning site visits to view similar projects to obtain ideas. The Dallas Arboretum is one such project. The ideas they obtain from these visits will assist the architects to produce a successful Library in the Park design. Mr. Jackson and Mr. Tipton will hold design charettes with BREC to establish site planning options. They also plan to hold design charettes for the Library and BREC. In conclusion, Mr. Jackson stated that the architects will make presentations to the Board as each phase of work is begun and completed.

Ms. Stepteau said that she appreciates that Mr. Jackson said they will, and not just try as they work on this building. She said that Mr. Jackson who has designed several of our branches has proven himself. He won't force the Board to accept a design or concept if they are not agreement with it. Ms. Stepteau asked about their minority staff members. Mr. Jackson said they do not have any minority staff currently, but he will check with Mr. Tipton and Ms. Wrightson regarding their staff members.

### **Comments by the Library Board of Control**

Ms. Stepteau said that she had car problems this afternoon. Consequently, she could not meet with Mrs. Acosta, Mrs. Husband and Mrs. Stein prior to the Board meeting to continue the planning of the process for conducting a self study of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library.

Mrs. Auer noted that this is an exciting time for the Library with the beginning of the design of the Library in the Park and the Big Read Program.

Mr. Bardwell said he believes that at the next Metropolitan Council meeting two additional citizens will be appointed to the Library Board.

Mr. Reed said he is looking forward to the new appointments to the Board. It is also exciting to envision the Library in the Park. The site was the former Baton Rouge Airport years ago and will become a new main library and park.

Mr. Tom Dubos, a member of the community, asked if Mr. Reed had spoken to Mr. Stephen Moret about continuing to serve on the Library Board in light of his new position as the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development in Governor Jindal's cabinet. Mr. Reed responded that he had not had an opportunity to speak with Mr. Moret.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. on a motion by Mr. Bardwell, seconded by Ms. Stepteau.

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Dan Reed, President

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Lydia M. Acosta, Director