

**Approved Minutes
for the Boulder Public Library Commission
August 4, 2010**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT

Nadia Haddad
Annette Mitchell
Sam Fuqua
Jim Zigarelli
Anne Sawyer

LIBRARY STAFF PRESENT

Donna Gartenmann, Acting Library & Arts Director
Lynn Reed, Assistant Library Director
Jennifer Miles, Strategic Planning & Administrative Services Manager
Jim Marshall, Finance & Business Manager
Paul Fetherston, Deputy City Manager

COMMISSION MEMBERS ABSENT

None

PUBLIC PRESENT

Joan Graff
Michal Feder

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the May 13, 2010 meeting were approved as amended. The minutes of the July 7, 2010 meeting were approved as written.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joan Graff – Joan advocated to save Prospector. She thinks it is a wonderful service that provides Boulder library users, researchers and book groups access to materials that can't be found in the BPL system. Joan thinks that the quality of library service will be significantly diminished if the community is reduced to only having access to the local library collection. She understands the need to make budget cuts, but would like to see it come from somewhere else. Joan shared two suggestions to generate more money. She thinks the library could begin to charge a small amount for programs, and to begin to enforce charging late fees for overdue children's books. Joan also commended the Boulder Library Foundation for sponsoring the pool party for the Summer Reading program.

MATTERS FROM THE DIRECTOR & STAFF

Library/City Council Study Session – Donna Gartenmann informed the commission that the September 14, 2010 date from 6 to 9 p.m. has been finalized for the joint Library/ City Council Study session. The study session will be held in the Canyon Theater at the Main Library. Ann Sawyer stated that it is important to schedule the Study Session when all Commissioners can attend. The document that will be submitted to council will be provided to the commission for review at the next meeting. Gartenmann

reviewed the document "Options Regarding Boulder Public Library Needs" that was sent out in the August Library Commission packet.

Sam Fuqua asked for clarification on what is meant by council approval under the Dedicated Sales Tax for a Library Bond Issue heading. In the case of a citizen initiative, he asked whether approval meant that all requirements were fulfilled for putting a citizen initiative on the ballot. Gartenmann agreed and added that it also included an initiative put forth by the council.

Nadia Haddad commented that in addition to pursuing options to get more money for the library, that there is a responsibility to utilize the resources that are currently available to the library as efficiently as possible, perhaps even improving services by redirecting existing resources. This is one reason that an efficiency study was added to the "Options" document. There was discussion among the commissioners about the priority, cost, and scope of such a study. Haddad asked the other commissioners if they agreed to leave this item on the list to be submitted to council. The commissioners unanimously agreed that it should be included with the information being submitted to council.

Jim Zigarelli asked if a study to poll or survey the community to gauge the viability of the different funding options would be part of the proposed efficiency study or if it would be a separate study. Gartenmann clarified that polling or surveying the community about funding options would be separate from a potential efficiency study. Zigarelli indicated that he would like to add a community survey for the viability of funding options to the list submitted to council.

Haddad suggested that the commission discuss how they would like to see the \$420,000 from the sale of the Laeser House be used for the library at a future meeting. The commission agreed to discuss this item at the October meeting.

Zigarelli stated that he thinks a critical first step is for the commission to tell the city manager what should be done with the portion of the .38 sales tax which has been used to refund the bonds issued to finance the construction of the 1992 Main library addition. There was discussion on this idea later in the meeting at which time, Haddad commented that it is important that the commission should be working together with council and the city manager. Zigarelli asked that discussion and recommendation of these options to council be done in cooperation with the city manager. The Commission unanimously agreed to add to the information being presented to council that the Commission will pursue a conversation with the city manager's office about how much and how to allocate this portion of sales tax (estimated to be about \$1.2 to \$1.3 million/year) if it was appropriated to the library.

Haddad commented that the Commission's recommendation and request for more money for the library would be stronger if it can be shown that existing resources are being used as efficiently as possible by conducting an efficiency study. Fuqua stated that he thinks the efficiency study isn't needed to justify asking for the portion of the expiring .38 sales tax money, because approximately \$700,000 in needs have already been identified for the library system. He stated that he thinks the commission should make a strong case for why the library needs more money, why its need is higher priority than other city departments' needs, and that he would like to ask for a specific amount of the expiring .38 sales tax money. Anne Sawyer added that it is also important to include why the library is important to the community.

There was discussion about the materials and presentation for the September 14, 2010 Library/City Council Joint Study session. The commissioners requested to see the information for the meeting as

soon as possible. Sawyer asked if information regarding teen services and the virtual branch will be included. Fuqua expressed concern that his view of the Facility Study is different from his fellow commissioners regarding north Boulder. Gartenmann reiterated that the commission reaffirmed facility related priorities as set in the 2007 Library Master Plan on February 4, 2009.

Fuqua asked where his fellow commissioners stand on the overall concept of supporting a citizen's initiative to keep the library's portion of .38 sales tax, and where they stand on the idea of dedicating it to branch library operations. Annette Mitchell, Haddad and Sawyer did not agree with the idea of dedicating funds specifically to the branches or recommending the earmarking of city funds without following city budget process first. Zigarelli stated that he supports the overall city budget process for requesting additional funds. Sawyer also agreed. Haddad summarized the discussion that the commission is not in favor of supporting a citizen's initiative at this time.

The commission was unanimously opposed to specifically recommend the following funding options:

- Independent Library District
- General Improvement District
- Regional Library Authority
- City Mill Levy Dedicated to Library Capital Projects
- Fund-raising utilizing an independent contractor
- Conducting a survey of the community and local municipalities on the feasibility of regional funding options.

Zigarelli suggested that the Colorado State Library's opinion on Library District funding be included in the information being prepared for council.

Four of the commissioners agreed to recommend that an efficiency study and creating a COB Development Officer position be investigated. The commissioners unanimously agreed to recommend requesting funding through the COB annual budget process, and to pursue non-profit and private partner fundraising.

Systems Librarian Position - Jennifer Miles provided an update on the Systems Librarian position.

Library Café - Jim Marshall provided an update on the negotiation process for the Main Library café.

Budget Process - Gartenmann provided information on the quartile results from the Priority Based Budget process, and brief information about the 3 state ballot initiatives: Amendment 60 & 61, and Proposition 101. Anne Sawyer requested clarification on why library programs fall in the lower quartile in the Priority Based Budget, and why the library CIP list was not in the city's CIP list.

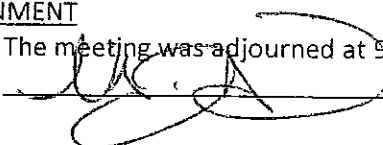
MATTERS FROM THE COMMISSION

Fuqua asked library staff to provide information about whether the receipt paper used at the library contains BPA.

ADJORNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Signed



Date

11/3/10

