

CLEVELAND PUBLIC LIBRARY
Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies Meeting
February 15, 2011
Trustees Room Louis Stokes Wing
12:00 Noon

Present: Mr. Werner, Ms. Rodriguez, Ms. Butts, Mr. Seifullah, Mr. Parker, Mr. Corrigan

Absent: Mr. Hairston

Mr. Werner called the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies to order at 12:49 p.m.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON CAPITAL PLAN AND BUDGET POLICIES

Discussion

Mr. Werner stated that the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies formed a result of a discussion held at the Board Retreat on January 15, 2011. The Board recognizes the need for an ad hoc committee to review past capital budgeting plans in order to address current Library projects including the Main Library reconfiguration and Branch facilities assessment.

Mr. Corrigan stated that the charge of the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies is to review history and practice for major capital expenditures of Cleveland Public Library, with a special review of carryover unencumbered balance policies and amounts, with a view toward recommending a modern policy that will consider carryover, capital planning, and potential Friends' foundation initiatives. The Ad Hoc Committee's work will help to hasten implementation and funding both of phases two through five of Main Library Destination Plan and of priorities identified in the Branches scope of needs study proposed for later this year.

Ms. Butts stated that it may be beneficial to investigate the usage of development software used by other libraries and recommended that the staff of the Friends of Cleveland Public Library be added to LISTSERV emails from the Urban Library Council's Development Office that provide current information.

Director Thomas recommended that the Ad Hoc Committee look at both funding and fundraising issues as a part of its charge and shared a survey of the top 30 libraries systems and their successful funding practices. In addition, the Friends of Cleveland Public Library will extend an invitation to the Peter D. Pearson, President of The Friends of the Saint Paul Public Library to speak to the Friends Board as well as the Library Board.

Mr. Corrigan stated that historically, every branch has been built from current operating funds and has never done a capital campaign. A reserve equal to the sum of a quarterly payroll and materials needs was maintained in case of crisis.

Lengthy discussion continued about the Library's fiscal crisis and unencumbered balance; managing existing resources; assessing capital funding needs; public sector connected private fundraising; transparency and Ohio public records and meetings laws.

Mr. Werner stated that it would be beneficial to meet with representatives of the MetroHealth Foundation, Cuyahoga Community College Foundation, Cleveland State University Foundation regarding the creation of foundations and funder relationships. He also stated that the Board will make decisions on prioritizing project funding needs and stressed the importance of creating and communicating the rationale for funding prior to the renewal of the next operating levy.

Mr. Werner will communicate specific requests to staff and the Board and schedule a follow-up meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee in the near future.

Director Thomas stated that as the Strategic Planning and Facilities Assessment progresses, the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies will be periodically updated and informed.

Mr. Werner adjourned the meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on Capital Plan and Budget Policies at 1:21 p.m.