

Board Meeting Minutes

June 15, 2020

Special Session Meeting, JCPL

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Alvin Mason (in the absence of Allison Whitecotton and Thomas Pennington) at 5:28 pm.

Present: Debbie Park, Amy Wallace, Alvin Mason, Heather Patton, and Herman Houston.

This meeting was held to discuss bringing plans to move the library back to the table (after the April decision to put moving plans on hold due to COVID-19. The two options that remain in discussion are moving to the Old Fred's building or to the First Presbyterian Church. Papers were distributed about the Fred's building to provide a reminder about the facts and figures that were given to the board at the March 5th meeting by Brian Boyer. Herman explained that we need to come together and discuss our options and start making progress again. Herman expressed his concern with the library being the "cornerstone" of the First Presbyterian building and that it might be financially too risky. He feels we need to find a goal and move towards it. Amy agreed and stated that we needed to begin some strong and progressive plans to make legally sound steps to achieve our final decision and suggested Heather supply some legal advice on the topic. Heather stated that, legally, we need to have a sound assessment and figures to pursue our best option and have potential for negotiations. She thinks that by collecting applicable, current data (including data coming from a phone survey provided by CCU of what people want and need and what the library wants to provide and do, we will be in the best negotiating position to ensure we are getting the best deal for what we want to achieve. She pointed out that a steering committee that would meet more regularly to achieve these goals will help to give support to whatever we decide to invest our money in (which reassures Herman's points that he brought up regarding financial safety and security for the library and county). She included Thomas Pennington in her thoughts on this, and thinks that getting a legal opinion or blueprint for how we can use our funds would be another important step in this process. Amy agreed and said that alongside legal advice, starting a steering committee and establishing a timeline for their meetings/goals is a great first step to move off center and start towards a good decision for the library. Debbie brought up the Friends of the Library Assessment that was done years ago to gather some information when these discussions first started. Herman agreed that serious talks and discussion has happened in the past, and that he only wants to support something that will be secure and stable for the library. Herman also agreed that by taking these steps to form a steering committee, gather data from the community, and build off the work that's already been done to prepare, we're on the right track to make a good decision. *Let the record show that the commotion in the recording of the meeting was due to an altercation in the library parking lot where Herman called the police to let them handle a brewing fight amongst people arguing in Taylor Circle.* The meeting wrapped up with the decision for board members to think on names to present at the July meeting that would be good steering committee members, Amy and Jimmy agreed to work on the JCPL Strategic Plan, and Heather confirmed she would look into some legal advice and support for financial decisions to be made in this process.

Alvin Mason made a motion to dismiss the meeting at 6:11 pm, Debbie Park seconded the motion, all were in favor and the motion passed.

Signed: _____



Allison Whitecotton, President

Date: _____

12-28-21