

**Kalamazoo Public Library
OFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
SPECIAL SESSION – STRATEGIC PLANNING**

DATE: March 8, 2010
TIME: 4:00 p.m.
LOCATION: Central Library
Board Room
315 South Rose Street
Kalamazoo, MI 49007

PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

Roll Call

All trustees present: Cynthia Addison, Fenner Brown, Robert Brown, Lisa Godfrey, Cheryl TenBrink, James Vander Roest and Valerie Wright

President Wright called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- I. RECOGNITIONS, RESOLUTIONS, COMMUNICATIONS**
There were no recognitions, resolutions or communications.
- II. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**
No one addressed the board.
- III. CONSENT CALENDAR**
No items
- IV. FINANCIAL REPORTS**
No reports
- V. REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A. Strategic Planning Recommendation

Recommendation: The director recommended board approval of the Community Planning Committee’s recommendation for the following five service priorities listed in ranked order below:

1. **Create young readers: early literacy**
2. **Stimulate imagination: reading, viewing, and listening for pleasure**
3. **Connect to the online world: public internet access**
4. **Build successful enterprises: non-profit**
5. **Discover your roots: genealogy and local history**

Executive
Summary:

The Community Planning Committee met for its second and final time last week. She reviewed the board and staff reaction to the committee’s preliminary service response choices and asked them to reconsider “discover your roots” based on staff and board comments.

After that review, Sandra Nelson encouraged committee members to “lobby” for their priorities. In response to some specific questions, she elaborated further on some of the service responses, especially the differences between several of them, and suggested the types

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of activities and services libraries might offer if various service responses were identified as priorities.

During that discussion and as a follow-up to my comments, committee members decided to drop the “business” aspect of “build successful enterprises” and address only the non-profit aspect of it in their consideration of this priority. They also discussed “discover your roots: genealogy and local history” at some length. There was even a plea for a yellow dot to indicate support for genealogy and local history to be maintained at or about its current level, not to expand or grow the service, but not to reduce it significantly either. Although a yellow dot was not added to the exercise, this “maintain at about the current level” was the position of those who expressed support and voted for it in the “dot” exercise.

The committee concluded its deliberations with the “dot” exercise. The results for the twelve service responses under consideration are shown on the attached ranking. There is a clear break between #5 and #6. For a library our size and with our resources, it should be manageable to have five service priorities as the basis for our goals and objectives.

Upon board approval of this recommendation, staff will continue to work with Ms. Nelson on goals, objectives, activities, and measurements in these five service areas.

Committee of the Whole

Discussion: Trustees agreed they would like to move to a committee of the whole to allow them to discuss the recommendation without constraint.

MOTION: L. GODFREY MOVED AND J. VANDER ROEST SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO MOVE TO A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE IN ORDER TO FREELY DISCUSS THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION.

Roll Call Vote: **J. Vander Roest – yes; R. Brown – yes; F. Brown – yes; C. TenBrink – yes; C. Addison – yes; L. Godfrey – yes; V. Wright – yes.**



MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

The meeting moved to a committee of the whole at 4:10 p.m.

Discussion: The board held an extended discussion and had a number of questions for the director, including whether they felt the five service responses selected as priorities were appropriate, what it would mean to be listed as a priority service response, how non-selected service responses would be affected, the process the committee followed to determine their recommendation, and next steps in the planning process. It was stressed that the planning process and resulting priorities provide flexibility to be able to respond to changing circumstances.

There was consensus that the top three priorities are areas in which KPL is already a leader and are initiatives no one else in the community is doing. The possibility of reducing the priorities to those top three was discussed, but the feeling of most trustees was to retain the 4th and 5th responses as priorities. It was felt we would be better able to seek outside funding and grants for #4 if it is a board accepted priority. It was the feeling of the board that although #4 becomes a priority, it is one that needs to be funded from outside sources. #5 was retained as a priority in order to maintain about the same level of service.

MOTION: C. TENBRINK MOVED AND F. BROWN SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

Roll Call Vote: **J. Vander Roest – yes; R. Brown – yes; F. Brown – yes; C. TenBrink – yes; C. Addison – yes; L. Godfrey – yes; V. Wright – yes.**



MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

The meeting returned to open session at 5:32 p.m.

MOTION: L. GODFREY MOVED AND F. BROWN SUPPORTED THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION FOR FIVE SERVICE PRIORITIES FROM THE COMMUNITY PLANNING COMMITTEE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DIRECTOR.



MOTION CARRIED 7 – 0.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

There were no reports.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no director's report.

VIII. PERSONS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD

No one addressed the board.

IX. TRUSTEE COMMENTS

R. Brown commented positively on the opportunity his grandchildren had to pre-register for a KPL library card at their school's "literacy night."

C. TenBrink commented on a positive article in the *Excelsior* and how important it is to take every opportunity to register students for library cards.

V. Wright thanked everyone for their thoughtful discussion and consideration and extended the boards' thanks to the members of the community planning committee and staff for their assistance and commitment to the process. The various participating groups provided needed checks and balances and made the process work.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no objection, President Wright adjourned the meeting of the Kalamazoo Public Library Board of Trustees at 5:38 p.m.

Cheryl TenBrink, Secretary