

**Board of Library Commissioners**

**Meeting Minutes: February 4, 2009**

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**Place:** Central Library Community Room

**Date:** February 4, 2009

**Attending:** Stephen Cary, Chairman (Presiding)

Commissioners Craig Givens, Sheila McElwaine, Timothy Moriarty, Vera O'Connor, Hector Toledo

**Absent:** Commissioner Madeline Landrau

**Staff:** Lee Fogarty, Assistant Library Director

Carol Leaders, Business Manager

Janet Stupak, Community Relations Coordinator (*minute taker*)

**Call to order:** 5:38 pm

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Discussion &amp; Decisions</b>	<b>Action Items (follow up)</b>
<b>1. Approval of Minutes from the December 3, 2008 Library Commission Meeting</b>	<p>Commissioner O'Connor gave an opening reading.</p> <p>Commissioner Toledo moved with Commissioner Moriarty providing the second, to accept the minutes of the December 3, 2008 meeting of the Springfield Library Board of Commissioners.</p> <p><b>The motion passed.</b></p>	
<b>2. Mason Square Library Report: City Solicitor Ed Pikula, Attorney Jack Egan</b>	<p>Mr. Egan addressed the Library Commission since Mr. Pikula was not able to attend, explained that the Springfield Library Foundation had retained his firm, and that the "ball is in the Library Commission's lap now" to choose a site for the <b>Mason Square Branch Library</b>. He said the Foundation has the Mason Square site studies and reports that were completed in 2008 by Steve Jablonsky, and will share those with the Library Commission as soon as they would like. Mr. Egan explained that this information (size of parcels, cost, etc.) could be put on one grid to make it concise and direct for the Library Commission. Mr. Egan will give the presentation and Mr. Jablonsky will answer questions. It was explained by Mr. Egan that the Library Foundation will use the Annie Curran endowment money and has approved taking the 765 State Street through the process of eminent domain. If the Library Commission agrees with the site, it goes to the City Council. The Foundation has agreed to pay the city for all costs of acquiring 765 State Street. When asked if the prospect of eminent domain was viable, Mr. Egan explained that it is done often, and that "this is a "classic example" of taking for the good of the public, and that usually the fight is about how much, not if. A special meeting could be scheduled for</p>	<p>Discuss heat issue at current Mason Square Branch Library.</p>

	<p>this purpose.</p> <p>Commissioner Givens made a motion to accept the information offered by Mr. Egan and his colleagues. Commissioner O'Connor provided the second.</p> <p><b>The motion passed.</b></p> <p>Mr. Moriarty made a motion that the Library Commission schedules a special meeting on February 25th at 5:30 p.m. for the purpose of a presentation and discussion on <b>Mason Square Branch Library</b>. Commissioner McElwaine seconded the motion.</p> <p><b>The motion passed.</b></p>	
<b>3. Library Advisory Committee Reports:</b>	None.	
<b>4. Commission Sub-Committee Reports:</b>	<p>Mr. Cary reported that the Library Commission's Finance Committee, consisting of himself, Mr. Toledo, Ms. Bader, and Ms. Fogarty, met on January 16th to discuss the planned 10% cut to the library budget in FY2010 and the impact on library services, materials, equipment, etc. Ms. Fogarty explained "the library's materials expenditure must be 12% of our total operating budget in order to keep our state aid, which comes from the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners. In FY10 the Library will not meet the MBLC Municipal Appropriation Requirement and will need to apply for a waiver. If the Library is disproportionately cut in comparison to other city departments, then the Library may not be awarded a waiver and would lose certification." Mr. Moriarty recommended that the Commission send a letter to the Mayor regarding the funding losses.</p>	
<b>5. Chairman's Report:</b>	None.	
<b>6. Director's Report:</b>	<p>Ms. Fogarty shared the dates of upcoming Library Legislative Breakfasts and encouraged the Commissioners to attend in order to voice their support for library funding. Dates are Friday, February 20, 7:30 a.m. at the Wilbraham Public Library, and Friday, February 27, 7:30 a.m. at the Agawam Public Library. The Director's Office will e-mail the details to the Commissioners.</p>	
<b>7. Other Business:</b>	<p>Ms. O'Connor asked the status of Library Commissioner Madeline Landrau. Mr. Cary stated that the Mayor is aware of the situation.</p> <p>The Commission spent a great deal of time discussing the Mayor's proposed 10.76% cut to the library's FY09 budget. Ms. McElwaine explained that she has already called the Springfield Control Board, Barbara Garvey of the Springfield Library Foundation, and City Councilman Pat Markey in order to voice her strong opposition to the proposed cuts. She presented the draft of a letter she had written which explains how the cuts would impact the Library and its services, state appropriation monies, and grant eligibility. She would like the Library Commission to send this letter to Mayor Sarno. Ms. McElwaine then made a motion that the Library Commission send this, or a similarly worded letter, to the City Council and the head of the Springfield Control Board. Mr. Moriarty seconded the motion.</p>	

	<p><b>The motion passed.</b></p> <p>The Commissioners discussed the details of the wording of Ms. McElwaine's well-stated draft and decided that Mr. Cary and Mr. Moriarty would "wordsmith" it tomorrow and have Mr. Cary sign it as Chairman of the Library Commission in order to send it out tomorrow or Friday.</p>	
<b>8. Adjournment:</b>	Chairman Cary adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.	

**Submitted by:** Vera O'Connor  
**Approved: March 4, 2009**