

Fayetteville Public Library  
Long Term Revenue Committee  
March 10, 2015 3 pm  
Minutes  
Prepared by S. Daniel, Office Manager

Present: J. Parry, M. Rice, J. Butt, and D. Ferritor

Absent: G. Faucette

Staff present: D. Johnson, S. Foley, S. Daniel, S. Davis, B. Holt, and S. Palmer

Press: Dan Holtmeyer

Others: C. Hendrix-Kral, P. Becker

- I. Call to order: J. Parry called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm.
- II. Approval of minutes: **M. Rice moved to approve minutes of February 24, 2015. D. Ferritor seconded. All voted aye.**
- III. Results of staff research
  - a. Reduced lawn care: This service, about \$17,000 annually, is currently contracted. Reducing the budget by \$10,000 would return maintenance to 2011-12 levels when the grounds were sparsely planted and poorly maintained. How would this reduction affect named gardens?
  - b. Close on Sundays and/or Mondays: Assumes cutting 8 hours from full-time staff making more than \$55,000. Twenty and thirty hour employees could keep their hours; they would not be paid for holiday Mondays. Because labor is the biggest expense, it has the most potential for saving.
  - c. Do not replace departing employees: This option would have the effect of reducing programming over time. Because there is no control over which employees would depart, the exact impact on programming is unpredictable. A temporary hiring freeze with careful monitoring by the board and executive director may be considered.
  - d. Reduce the collection: This year's collection budget has been reduced by \$70,000. A further 15% reduction next year was suggested. EBooks, more expensive than paper books, are in highest demand which further stretches the collection budget. DVDs have the highest circulation. Reducing the DVD check-out limit from 50 (to reduce losses) would make the collection available to more patrons but may have the effect of reducing revenue from late fees
  - e. Eliminate large special events: It's not clear whether these events attract regular patrons or others who don't typically use the library. Special events may be a long-term investment if they attract donors and potential donors. However, it may be necessary to charge for the receptions that typically accompany these events and/or find an underwriter. The NEH distribution, scheduled to be \$58,000 this year, could be split between programming and the collection.
  - f. Reduce/eliminate programs: If the summer reading kick-off was eliminated, would fewer children participate? It may be preferable to eliminate or charge for large events than cut regular programming. There may be ways to cut costs. For example, FPL might be a venue for the Roots Festival but not provide funding.
  - g. Millage: A millage may be necessary but it is important to show voters FPL has cut costs and spent responsibly. It is assumed the city transfer would continue.
  - h. The Master Plan identified library needs as Fayetteville grows to 125,000 by the year 2023. These include an additional 80,000 square feet, a larger collection, 164 computer stations, smart classrooms, increased seating, and more meeting space and quiet study rooms. One possible timeline:
    1. Spring/summer 2015: conduct polls/surveys about what public wants
    2. Fall 2015: millage election
    3. Winter 2016: raise \$15 million in private donations
    4. Fall 2019: expansion millage for 56,000 square feet
    5. Fall 2025: Build branch with 24,000 square feet (for a total of 80,000 additional square feet identified in the Master Plan)
  - i. CIP: FPL is currently deferring maintenance. The carpet in the Walker room is not being replaced; the cork flooring is not being refinished. It is necessary to bank \$400,000-\$500,000 annually to maintain the structure. Maintaining the building in opening day condition is the top priority.
- IV. Adjournment: The next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at 3 pm when members will be asked to narrow the options presented. M. Rice moved to adjourn; J. Butt seconded. All voted AYE. The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.