

East Cleveland Public Library
Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting
October 15, 2018
14101 Euclid Ave. East Cleveland, Ohio 44112
Lower Auditorium 6:30 p.m.

Ms. Turner called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

1227 MP3

1228 MP3

I. **CALL TO ORDER**
A. **ROLL CALL**

Present: Ms. Turner, Ms. Synor, Ms. Shaheed, Mr. Mays, Mr. Rashid, Mr. Fambrough

A quorum exists. Present – 6, Absent - 1

Also present at the table were: Mr. Carlos Latimer (Interim Director), Mr. Ross Cockfield (CFO), Mr. E.F. Turner III (Exec. Admin. Assistant).

Present in the Audience were: Ms. Chambliss, Dr. Rice, Dr. Harris

II. **LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

Everyone is invited to sing.

III. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Ms. Turner: Motion to approve the agenda.

Mr. Fambrough: Madame Chair. You and I have a side bar, I'm willing to read on the agenda and get those five minutes?

Ms. Turner: Absolutely. We can give you that under new business, how about that?

Mr. Fambrough: Thank you.

Mr. Mays: Madam Chair, before we approve the agenda, I would like to make a motion to move, where you say, 'Unfinished Business' and you have 'boiler', the last thing down here under 'Unfinished Business', I would like to move it to the ... Right after all these approval of minutes, and the President, the Director, President's report, Fiscal Officer, and, let's see, come under ... I would say move it all the way up to, where you have number 10, 12, unit 13, come

under there, because, I know as we sit here it's going to get cool in here, as well. So, instead of having down under new business, I would like to move it all the way up to under Finance Committee reports and Chairperson, before that.

Ms. Turner: Okay, and tell me why, when it's on the agenda, why is moving it to a different place in the agenda important?

Mr. Mays: Because, Madam Chairman, it's going to be almost time to go home, or whatever the case may be, to go over it, then putting it all the way down here at the bottom. I think it takes precedent over anything else in this agenda, because this is affecting the entire operation of this library. I think it needs some time to discuss other matters and what have you, and so I -

Ms. Turner: So you're afraid that we won't have the time to discuss it if we don't move it up? Is that what you're saying?

Mr. Mays: That is correct, as well as the fact that I feel that it should take precedent over everything else on this agenda, because as I said, it is one of the open things that we must, as board members, must see that this library operate, and operate effectively.

Ms. Turner: Does anybody else have any thoughts on that? Historically, I will say this, we don't generally put things on the agenda based on their importance, but just rather to follow the rhythm that you always follow. It's not that the boiler is not important so it's way down at the back. Let me say that, just so you understand that it was not indicative that it was a low priority. We are all chilly.

Ms. Turner: Yes?

Mr. Rashid: If we can have an agreement among all the members that we are going to finish this regardless of what time it takes for us to get out of here, I think that will suffice. Because obviously, as cold as it is, if you walk through this building, we cannot leave here today without having completed...

Ms. Turner: Absolutely.

Mr. Rashid: We owe that to everybody that's counting on us to do what we're supposed to do as a board. So, if we have an agreement among everybody that we will not leave here tonight until we solve this issue, and I think that the staff has information to share with us relative to this, so we can make a decision. Because I've spoken with some of them earlier today, so I'm confident that they have the information that we can act on.

Ms. Turner: Absolutely. Ms. Synor?

Ms. Synor: I agree that it needs to be moved up, only so that we can have the dialogue. I think we may have shortened committee reports, and if we move it right before the committee reports, right after the Fiscal Officer report, that will give us some time to chat. If we see that we need to make a motion to move something or we need something crafted up, it will give us time enough to do that.

Ms. Turner: So, you want to move it in right after Fiscal Officer's report to number 13?

Ms. Synor: Yes.

Ms. Turner: Alright. So the motion is ... and I'm taking that Mr. Mays is moving it to second it?

Mr. Mays: Yeah, I'll second it.

Mr. Rashid: I'll second it.

Ms. Turner: Okay. With that amendment ...

Mr. Mays: Thank you.

Ms. Turner: With that amendment ... yes?

Ms. Synor: I think, for the agenda itself, because that's not something we're adding to the agenda, that's something we're shifting on the agenda. I think the motion needs to be to have the agenda accepted with the proposed changes. So it's the addition of Mr. Fambrough to the agenda under New Business, and to move the discussion of the boiler to Item 13, and shift everything else down.

Ms. Turner: Okay.

Mr. Fambrough: Is there a motion?

Mr. Mays: I second that motion.

Mr. Fambrough: Is there a motion on the floor?

Ms. Synor: I move that we accept the agenda as amended with Mr. Fambrough going under New Business, and moving the boiler room piping repairs up to Item Number 13 and shifting the rest of the agenda downward.

Mr. Mays: I second the motion.

Ms. Turner: Okay. We've moved, we have a second. Mr. Turner, do we need any more discussion? Mr. Turner, please.

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Ms. Synor moved and Mr. Mays seconds the agenda as amended.

Amended agenda approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST 13, 2018

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2018

VI. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES FROM AUGUST 29, 2018

VII. APPROVAL OF SPECIAL BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 4, 2018

VIII. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 17, 2018

Ms. Turner: Ms. Synor, you wanted to talk about the minutes?

Ms. Synor:

Yes. I move that we table the minutes for approval, again. And the reason for this, colleagues, is that I went through the minutes, all of them. I find that as a group, we do Mr. Turner a disservice, because we over talk one another, there's a lot of dialogue that's side-bar discussions that take place. There's numerous instances throughout the minutes that indicate un-discernible ... un- audible. And that's because we have side-bars and we over talk one another. To ask him to decipher that, I think is unreasonable.

Secondly, if you look at the minutes, some of them are 60 and 70 pages long, because we've asked him to do the minutes verbatim. Other districts don't do all their minutes verbatim. They are summarized and the point is put at the bottom of whatever is being captured there. We have minutes that are recorded and so, should there be a law-suit, or someone's need to have a audio recording, we can easily download that. It's a burden to ask for this work to be done that way, and when we go back to make a correction, I think that it's overwhelming.

I am going to work with Mr. Turner to look at some summarized sets of minutes and hopefully we can have a special meeting to sit down and look at, compare what summarized minutes look like versus the elongated minutes that we have. And make a decision on how we want to do our minutes. I know these sets of minutes right here have to come verbatim, the way they are, but they still need to be cleaned up. He has to go in and put words in, based on things that he's missed. And there's a way that you write minutes that way, so that you put the word that should have been said, or the word that was implied, that was said, in parentheses, so that you know ... or rather, in brackets, so that you know that's not the exact word the person said, but that in the flow of the conversation it was the intent.

It took me quite a bit to go through all these minutes, and I'm really ashamed of us, and how we treat each other through the dialogue. The minutes themselves speak to how disrespectful we are to one another. Or inconsiderate of one another, when we speak. We make his job much more difficult. So, once we can clean these up, so that they reflect what was said, and the intent, with the words that were missing, then I'm willing to present them to the board for approval.

Ms. Turner:

Mr. Fambrough.

Mr. Fambrough:

I'm going to ask Mr. Turner if he's using a software that's trying to ... in other words, letting the machine say what these words are. Is that the case here?

Mr. Turner:

It's not software, it's a service.

Mr. Fambrough: A service?

Mr. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Fambrough: How's that work?

Mr. Turner: The audio files are presented to people that transcribe. They transcribe it. Once it's transcribed, it comes back, and then I go through it to make sure ... for instance, whoever is speaking, they have the right person, what's spoken of, the terms.

Mr. Turner: For instance, the PACE program. A person transcribing wouldn't know what that is, so I would go in there. They may have said something like 'race' or 'case' or something like that. I'll go in and fix the different things.

Mr. Fambrough: Okay, so I know that in the case of myself, most ... Sometimes what's captured is not what I said, nor does it read the way I speak. And that's alarming, because, when the word is 'because', I don't say 'cause. I never do that. And other things. That's how I knew that's something going on with these minutes.

Mr. Fambrough: How long has this been going on, this service?

Mr. Turner: I believe August.

Mr. Fambrough: And that's when I noticed it, right in there. Thank you, Mr. Turner.

Ms. Synor: Let me also interject, and I apologize. Mr. Fambrough had made a suggestion, maybe two meetings ago, that we should get microphones to be in front of us so that we can be more audible. My other recommendation was going to be that we look into the cost of that to see how it would impact the budget. If it wasn't a significant cost. If the cost-benefit analysis allows for us to have clearer minutes, more succinct minutes versus what we have now, and this god-awful printing of paper, because I hear the weeping willows weeping for all the paper that we print out and then we don't approve the minutes. So, if we could get a cost estimate on what the system would cost for us to be able to speak into mics, maybe that would assist in the transcription of the minutes as well.

Ms. Turner: Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: Thank you, Madam Chairman. I concur with my honorable colleague in reference to the minutes should be succinct. If I understand what Mr. Turner said, he has a machine, and the machines kind of filter through the

minutes, and you in return listen to the machine after it has critiqued the minutes or what have you. Then you -

Mr. Turner:

It's actual people.

Mr. Mays:

I'm sorry?

Mr. Turner:

People. Transcribers.

Mr. Mays:

Yeah. To me, it's not being ... they're not being succinct, you do not have to say every word a person said, or, for an example ... what my honorable colleague said over there in reference to say, for an example, I make a motion and they second it, what have you. Instead of printing all of that, you just say, a motion was made by Mays or whoever, and seconded by Shaheed, or whatever. Opposed to some of this stuff that got the 'hmmmm' and 'ahhhhh', and all this stuff in here, I see what she's saying in reference to that. And, 'no, no, no, no'. To have all this in the minutes, it is -

Ms. Synor:

The reason that's there is because, at some point we went back to having the minutes transcribed verbatim. So, this is what we get, having the minutes transcribed verbatim. Verbatim means that if you -

Mr. Mays:

I know, everything that some person said.

Ms. Synor:

That's what goes on there.

Ms. Turner:

Yes, Mr. Turner?

Mr. Turner:

I just wanted to say that on the right column of the page, that is really where the meat of what we do here is. All that other stuff ... The important stuff is really on the right hand side.

Mr. Mays:

But it reflects, that someone just come in and ask for their minutes and they get them, which we have to give them to them, this just doesn't ... Minutes are supposed to be succinct, and not verbatim.

Ms. Turner:

So, Mr. Mays, Mr. Fambrough.

Mr. Fambrough:

That was an example where you gave the floor to Mr. Turner, and then Mr. Mays started talking. This is why those minutes are so difficult, because we clash across each other as Ms. Synor has indicated, and it's really terrible. I've mentioned it before in our meetings, not only is it why getting the minutes is difficult, it's also disruptive. It's really, it's against the Sunshine laws to be honest with you.

Ms. Turner: So, this is the long and the short of it, I think, in terms of my thoughts. Mr. Turner, I was not aware that we were sending them out to be ... If that's the case, then we absolutely really do need, we really do need to have microphones. Because at any given time, like, my voice is a little raspy today. So the process of ... It'd be very easy for something to be lost. So, in that, that is the case, that is absolutely something. So, if you would put that on the agenda of things to investigate, and see what kind of digital system could be set up for recording with us. I'm sure that is not, hold on for a second. I'm sure that's not ... We aren't the only folks who are having this experience. I'm sure there's plenty of programming out there that would and materials. Yes?

Mr. Fambrough: What it is, is that ... That's something that I do professionally, with my company. It's not as simple as what we think. The microphones all feed to specific channels, and those channels ... I can turn someone up or down after the meeting ended two weeks ago. I can still turn someone, just one person, louder than they were, actually, in the meeting. The thing is that, it's a service. Think more in terms of service, rather than ... The company would have to be here every time we meet, rather than some kind of gizmo that you can buy that just handles it. They don't really do that well.

What Mr. Turner has is a professional recorder there. But it's way over there, that's like the microphone being way over there. And it's designed to do things like meetings, but a professional recording is way better. Way better. Like night and day.

Ms. Turner: Okay. Thank you very much. So, can we get a motion ... I'm sorry.

Mr. Rashid: In the meantime, is it possible that we can relocate the ... place the thing someplace else, closer to us, the center of the room? Would that make a difference in terms of the way that that microphone picks up, 'til we figure out what to do?

Mr. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: The answer's yes.

Mr. Turner: Yeah, it'd make a difference. The only thing is, I kind of monitor it as we go through the meeting. And it'd be a little difficult for me to monitor it if it's in the middle of the room.

Ms. Turner: So you'd have to sit in the middle of the room, too.

Mr. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Fambrough: He could monitor it from there.

Ms. Turner: Yeah.

Mr. Mays: Madam Chairman?

Ms. Turner: Yes?

Mr. Mays: I move that we accept [inaudible 00:20:29] from Ms...

Ms. Turner: Ms. Synor?

Mr. Mays: Ms. Synor.

Ms. Shaheed: You talking about modification on how you had it written up with Mr. Turner, correct?

Ms. Synor: That's correct.

Ms. Turner: My understanding is that what you're suggesting is that we don't do anything with these minutes right now, that she would meet with Mr. Turner and look at different ways of doing it. Do we need to do it as verbatim? Or should we do it in a summary way, and how that works, and what that looks like. That's my understanding. Right? So that's all that's included in that motion of your recommendations.

Ms. Synor: Let me clarify. These ... one, two, three, four, five sets of minutes will be in verbatim, because that's what we have agreed upon, and that's our process as it stands. I will bring back to the board also, when I bring these back for approval, recommendations for summary, and maybe a couple of pages of what summarized minutes look like, so we can make a decision on that. But we need to fix these minutes so that they are palatable. Not only to us, but to outside readers, as well.

Ms. Turner: So. That is the motion? There's a motion on the floor.

Mr. Mays: I move to [crosstalk 00:21:52] ...

Ms. Turner: Yes, Mr. Mays moved -

Mr. Mays: I second that motion.

Ms. Turner: Perfect. Or you -

Mr. Mays: You made the motion?

Ms. Synor moved and Mr. Mays seconds to table the minutes.

Ms. Turner: Did you make motions? She made a recommendation -

Ms. Synor: I made a recommendation, you made a motion, and Mr. Rashid seconded. I just clarified it, just to make sure we were all on the same page.

Mr. Mays: Madam Chairman, I move that we table these minutes and also, too ... the minutes should be synchronized. I think that's needed.

Mr. Rashid: I thought that's what we just did.

Ms. Turner: Mmm-hmmm. You made a motion over there, he seconded it [crosstalk 00:22:37].

Ms. Turner: Yeah, yeah. [crosstalk 00:22:39] We were just clarifying what the motion was, and now we've had a motion and a second, we've had a discussion. Is there any more discussion? Mr. Turner, can we take a vote?

Mr. Turner: Ms. Turner?

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Latimer: Oh, yes, we do have a communications. You want me to do them verbatim?

Ms. Turner: Please!

Mr. Latimer: This communications is from a community member, Muctar Shaheed, to the members of the East Cleveland Public Library:

Minutes for
08/13/2018,
08/20/2018,
08/29/2018,
09/04/2018,
09/17/2018
have been
tabled.

Thank you for your help and support in the project of Feeding the Community that we completed last week, which was September 23rd. It was only with your support that we were able to feed over 200 people. Charity work is not easy to cover. There's a lot of time, preparation, dedication, and cooperation involved. But we were able to work effortlessly with the help of such great staff. With all the turmoil plaguing our community, it's refreshing to know people can still work together for the greater good. We also want to send a special thanks to me, Carlos Latimer, and Ms. Marcus-Bey. From the moment I entered the building, Carlos was fully on board, with backing up the talk of being there for the community by immediately asking how the library could help. Last but not least, we want to acknowledge the roles the security played this past weekend. The security staff's professionalism and interaction with the people made things go a lot smoother, they made our time much more enjoyable. Without your help it was not possible for us to deliver such high quality work in the limited period of time. We look forward to working with you again in the very near future. Our whole team would like to thank you for being such a wonderful support. Sincerely, Muctar Shaheed.

Ms. Turner:

Wow.

Mr. Fambrough:

Fantastic.

Ms. Turner:

Always lovely to hear that you all are on your game.

Ms. Turner:

Is that it?

Mr. Latimer:

That's it as far as communications.

Ms. Turner:

Okay, great. In the absence of Ms. Marcus-Bey, Mr. Latimer, Mr. Cockfield and Mr. Turner have absolutely been holding it down, and I wanted to acknowledge that we see you. In the absence of our established leadership you guys have stepped in and been holding down, and I appreciate that. So I definitely wanted to at least say thank you.

Mr. Latimer:

Thank you.

X. PRESIDENT'S REPORT (T. TURNER)

Ms. Turner:

Thank you. What did not happen, since our last meeting, were committee meetings that should have occurred. So, I place the onus on each of you to

get your committee ... I appreciate the difficulty of all of us, different schedules, trying to meet. It's definitely a part [crosstalk 00:26:08], to happen. They all need to happen. Every committee meeting is important. That's all I have to say.

XI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT (C. Latimer)

Carlos Latimer — Interim Library Director

Director's Report — September 2018

ADULT PROGRAMMING

- As part of the third annual Cleveland Book Week, The Great Lakes Black Authors Expo & Writers Conference (GLBA) took place at the East Cleveland Public Library on Saturday, September 29, 2018 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. This free event hosted over 300 registered participants. Organized by Melanated Literary Heritage, Ltd., the Great Lakes Black Authors Expo and Writers Conference works to foster literary education and publishing industry networking. Notable authors from all over the Great Lakes region, along with Keynote Speaker Tayari Jones, author of *An American Marriage*, will convene and work towards developing a platform to recognize up-and-coming writers.
- Nine library patrons participated in L.I.N.G.O. Adult patrons had an opportunity to play the library version of the board game similar to BINGO.
- The adult program titled Diversity, where adult patrons had the opportunity to color utilizing Mandala coloring pages and colored pencils. Each patron was given a three-ring binder with various coloring sheets.

CHILDREN'S and TEEN PROGRAMMING

- 125 preschoolers from CEOGC visited and participate in Storytime during the month.
- 889 children's visited the Children's Room for the for the month where many of them during their after school visit participated in the following themed program activities in the children's room: craft making of

bookmarks, Grandparents Day Cards, Lego Lab, Rhythm and Read, Talk like a Pirate Day, Just Dance and the music program Luca Mundaca concert.

- Activates in the Teen Room included over 50 teens that participated in the following programs:, Writing Lab, Book Tasting, Online Touch Typing and a visit from the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center where youth were educated on subjects around healthy relationships vs. unhealthy relationships.

Technology

- 1,115 library patrons for the month participated in the activities in The Job Shop. The activities included, resume and cover letter composition, job search, job testing, employment and unemployment applications and setting up email accounts.
- 435 Open Lab
- September PC Usage Report:

Children's Department 734

Computer Lab 435

Reference 914

Teens 676

Total Uses: 2,759

Outreach SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND PARTNERSHIPS

- At the McGregor Home, Mondays and Wednesdays during the month of September, ten(10) regularly participated in the Basic/Advanced Computer Classes
- Salvation Army on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of September, a class of twelve (12) students regularly participated in the Basic/Advanced Computer Classes.

(Carlos Latimer reviewed the Personnel Report for September 2018.)

Personnel Report

September 2018

I. Retirements

- None

II. Resignations/Terminations

- Jaqueline Wallace, Maintenance SG 15 Step 15 \$15.50 per hour, part-time 9/14/2018

III. New hire/promotion

- Carlos Latimer, HR Manager to Interim Director (20 hrs. per week) and HR Manager (9 hrs. per week), effective September 23rd, 2018

III. Recommendations

- None

Postings:

- Maintenance Worker part-time SG 14 \$14 per hour

Sick & Vacation Report

- Ross Cockfield

Current Staff

6 full time/ salaried employees

11 full-time, hourly employees

14 part-time, hourly employees

Total 31 employees

October 11, 2018

Mr. Fambrough: Madam Chair?

Ms. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Fambrough: You mentioned the teen room activities.

Mr. Latimer: Yes.

Mr. Fambrough: That would be the Shirellda Helen Terry room?

Mr. Latimer: Correct.

Mr. Fambrough: The board gave that title to that teen room, and I think we should use that. Thank you.

Mr. Latimer: Noted.

Ms. Turner: Any more comments?

Mr. Mays: Yes, ma'am. A question in reference to the person you alluded to as far as ... Did this person resign? Or was she dismissed, or, what's the case?

Mr. Latimer: She resigned.

Mr. Rashid: From an HR standpoint, can you put that hat on for me? I'm just curious as to what's going on with the director. Because I was up there today and the office is cleaned out. So, have you heard anything? Is she ill? Is she coming back? Based on the FMLA?

Mr. Latimer: As current, the director is still out on FMLA. The last conversation I had with her, she was planning to come back on January 3rd. I think we're closed on the first and the second. So whatever that Wednesday is, at the end of the year. She verbally said that she's coming back on that day.

Mr. Rashid: Okay. Thank you.

Ms. Turner: Thank you, Mr. Latimer. Mr. Cockfield?

XII. FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT (R. COCKFIELD)

Fiscal Officer Report

Ross A. Cockfield, Fiscal Officer

August 2018

Prepared October 2018

Financial reports as of August 31st have been distributed. Eight month's spending is still within appropriated limits but there are a number of line items that require an appropriation increase. We met as a management team and identified those items that need increasing; however, an appropriations increase is warranted. I'm going to make those adjustments I'm able and will be coming to the Board next month requesting a resolution to amend our appropriations. Our reconciled cash fund balance for all funds as of August 31st is \$785,382.59. I've included the reconciliation report as part of the financial package and the bank balances agree to the cash fund balance. The breakdown is as follows:

Bank and Investments:	
US Bank	\$97,168.71
Plus: Deposits in Transit	\$0
Less: Outstanding Checks	-
	\$15,393.10
US Bank Adjusted Balance	\$81,775.61
Star Ohio 1	\$527,403.73
Star Ohio 2	\$176,203.25
	\$785,382.59
Total Bank and Investments	
Funds:	
General Fund	\$614,714.24
Flewellen Fund	\$8,273.70
Performing Arts Center	\$10,085.00
Building Fund	\$148,517.65
Permanent Fund	\$3,792.00
Total Fund Balances	\$785,382.59

September's financials have not been presented to the Finance Committee and are close to being reconciled. Once completed, I'll send them out under separate cover and go over them with the Finance committee next month. We're continuing to make progress with our conversion to the new accounting system. We have all transactions entered through August 2018, as well as projects and grants. I'm currently working on developing financial statements and will send the board samples as I get them developed. The 2016-2017 audit is complete. The auditor presented the post audit to a few members of the board. In summary, I quote, "In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the cash balances, receipts and disbursements by fund type, and related notes of the East Cleveland Library, Cuyahoga County, for the year then ended." I further quote, "We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider material weaknesses. Additionally, there were management recommendations having to do with budgetary discrepancies, between the recorded appropriations and receipts, and information presented on our certificate of estimated resources. There was also a comment made having to do with the transposition of revenue posting in 2016. The final report should be released soon, if it's not already out. It should be released very soon. That concludes my report.

Ms. Turner: I was at the meeting with the auditor, and he very explicitly said this was the best audit that this institution has had in over 20 years. He's the same gentleman who has audited us all along.

Ms. Turner: So, he was very pleased. The recommendations that he made were minimal, there were some minor things, but they were not part of our official report. The essential thing is that there are no material weaknesses in the way that we handle our money. So this is our clean audit, for the first time since I've been on the board. From what the gentleman was saying, the first with no material weaknesses in 20 years. So, congratulations, Mr. Cockfield.

Mr. Rashid: Congratulation, Mr. Cockfield.

Ms. Turner: That's exciting. That is huge for us, in terms of being able to seek external funding, to look at being able to bring in some federal money, some state money, some private philanthropic monies, also. So, all of that is essential.

Ms. Turner: Yes?

Mr. Mays: I just have side-bar. He was leaving, and I told him, "Is this why you're saying that we have our ... no flaws, in the audit that he had given, very limited, if there were any." And he had to laugh himself, because he's leaving.

Ms. Turner: Yes, he's ... the gentleman who has been auditing all this time is retiring from the state. So this is the last time that he'll be doing an audit with us.

Ms. Turner: I know, it was a great present for him.

Ms. Turner: Yes, Mr. Fambrough?

Mr. Fambrough: Just for the record, there were others from the state auditor's office that came down, but Kevin Lally is this gentleman's name, and he'd been in the background, even when he wasn't here. He was the supervisor over the group that came in here.

Mr. Rashid: Great job, Mr. Cockfield.

Ms. Turner: Absolutely. They said you were absolutely appreciated.

Ms. Turner: Okay, so we have had the financial officer's report, and given our amendment of ... yes?

Ms. Synor: I just want to say that, he mentioned that we'll be looking at appropriation adjustments for next month, so let's be mindful of that. When he sends out the report, we will have a finance committee meeting, hopefully, this week, I was out of town last week, we were unable to hold a meeting. Please read where we're making the changes at, because he makes those changes in particular areas for particular reasons. If you have any questions we can try to get those answered prior to sitting in the meeting, and having a whole other finance committee meeting again.

Ms. Synor: When he sends them out, let's look at them, and that way we can field the questions and get the answers that you need to have answered, send them back and then that way when we do the monthly report, when he makes the recommendation for the adjustments, he'll have those answers for us prior to, at least, ready for us at the meeting time. So, please look at those when they come.

Mr. Mays: I do need to ask Mr. Cockfield a question, Madam Chairman.

Mr. Mays: Mr. Cockfield, are you saying our total fund balance is \$785,382.59 dollars?

Mr. Cockfield: As of August 31. As of August 31st, yes.

Mr. Mays: So, are we anticipating something else coming in, I wasn't sure.

Mr. Cockfield: I mean, yeah. We're going to be getting September, October, November, December PLF. Probably tax revenues won't be coming in. So, the only funding that we'll receive for the balance of the year is going to be PLF funding. Which would approximate about \$130,000.00 a month.

Mr. Mays: Okay. I just ... that caught my eye. Thank you.

Ms. Turner: So, since we have had the Fiscal Officer's report, can I get a motion to approve -

Mr. Mays: Madam Chairman, I move that we accept the finance officer report, as well as the director's report.

Mr. Rashid: Those are two separate motions.

Ms. Turner: They're two separate things.

Mr. Mays: I know, but I ... let me just do them one at a time. Madam Chairman I move that we accept the Interim Director's report.

Ms. Turner: Can I get a second?

Ms. Synor: I second.

Ms. Turner: Moved. It's moved and second. Any more discussion? Mr. Turner, please.

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (no).

Yes – 5; No -1

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moves and Ms. Synor seconds approval of the Interim Director's report.

The Interim Director's report is approved.

Turner: Fantastic.

Mr. Mays: Madam Chairman, I move that we accept the report coming from the Finance Director.

Ms. Turner: Can I get a second?

Ms. Synor: I second.

Ms. Turner: It's moved to second. Mr. Turner, please.

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Mr. Mays moves and Ms. Synor seconds approval of the Fiscal Officer's report.

Motion passes.

The Fiscal Officer's report is approved.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ms. Turner: Okay. So, let us talk about the boiler. It is time. We have moved unfinished business from 18 to 13.

Mr. Latimer: Okay, as the Interim Director, I had to make a decision based on where we are. Based on the information that was presented to me, based on the condition, the coldness of the building. We have to apply the most objective process to this decision. Based on the information, we received three quotes, in alphabetical order, but my criteria was based on cost, timeline, and can meet specifications. Those were the highest points. The lowest points was the Better Business Bureau reference, as well as equal opportunity for minorities, diversity for women, as best as I can find that information.

Mr. Latimer: So, let's get right to it.

Mr. Latimer: Smith and Oby. Their cost, \$12,000.00 dollars. They received a (score of 9). They can do it in one week, get here in one week and complete it in three or four days. They were second, number nine. Can they meet the specifications? Yes. They were Better Business Bureau, they received an A+. I cannot find anything, as far as any diversity statements or anything related. They received a (score of 33).

Mr. Latimer: Air-Temps. They sent us a quote of \$10,355.00 dollars. They gave us a timeline of three weeks, and one week to complete. They were last on the list, and received a (score of 8). However, the quote was incomplete, they didn't have all the specifications, although they do have a Better Business Bureau A+. I cannot find any diversity or EO statements. Note: incomplete quote, they did not include the actuators, which is \$5,000.00 dollars. Was not part of the initial quote. So they received a (score of 28).

Mr. Latimer: The company that I'm recommending to move forward with, with a P.O., as soon as possible, came in at the lowest. \$8,500 dollars, they can get here in 48 hours, will take them one week to complete. Of course, they were number 1 there. Yes, they can meet specifications. I did not find them rated

on the Better Business Bureau, so they received a zero. However, they are a minority company, so they did get five points on that. Total; 35 points. My recommendation is to move forward with A&J Plumbing and Heating.

Ms. Turner:

Okay. Mr. Rashid?

Mr. Rashid:

Questions that I have. Do we have references for them? Verifiable references of work they've done in the past?

Mr. Latimer:

Yes, I have some references for A&J.

Mr. Rashid:

Okay, good. You've been able to contact them, or you've been in contact with them?

Mr. Latimer:

Based on the information, I have called, none of them, none of the references called back. I know we're in a time-sensitive, but that's why I used the Better Business Bureau. However, I will continue to follow up with A&J Plumbing. They do have some legitimate information of companies that they've done work for.

Mr. Rashid:

Okay. Are you comfortable with those?

Mr. Latimer:

Based on the information that I have, yes.

Mr. Rashid:

And you're researching the rest of it now to make sure?

Mr. Latimer:

Correct.

Mr. Rashid:

Okay. What happens, as I would ask if any of them won the bid, they said 48 to about a week to complete. What happens if one week becomes two weeks?

Mr. Rashid:

I mean, one week. Yeah, the quote.

Mr. Latimer:

I mean, this is where we are. Those decisions ... that could be with any of the companies. Those are unknown, we cannot predict.

Mr. Rashid:

So, that's what I'm saying. How do we protect ourselves if in fact ... I guess the next stage would be a contract stage, where they will present a contract to us?

Mr. Rashid:

Okay, can we make sure that goes to the Building and Grounds committee? We'll arrange an emergency meeting at any time, any place, as soon as possible. To get the heat done. But there's just some things I'd like to see in

the contract to make sure. Licenses, and bonding. Are they licensed and bonded?

Mr. Latimer: Right, based on the information, they are. However, before they do the work, of course they will present us with that information.

Mr. Rashid: Bingo. Okay, good.

Ms. Turner: Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: Madam Chairman, I agree with the recommendation coming from administration. I support that as well. Secondly, you did not give us the quotes, here. You gave it on this, but you should have given us the list of material that came in. [crosstalk 00:45:54]

Mr. Fambrough: That's a records request.

Mr. Mays: So, secondly, just to respond to something. When you remove things that you cannot see, the unforeseen ... That's why basically, everybody's saying, a week, two weeks, three weeks. I mean, not three weeks, but three days or whatever, because sometimes when you begin to remove things and open up things and there's some other problems that exist. That is why you find most people that bid on things project that timeline out, because there are a lot of unforeseen things that we cannot see with the naked eye.

Mr. Rashid: Can I respond to that?

Ms. Turner: Mr. Rashid, go ahead.

Mr. Rashid: Because there were specific things that we wanted done, that were outlined in the statement. In that document that was presented to the various contractors for the bids. So, those specific things that have been outlined to be done, if a person has experience in this, they should know to a certain extent how long it's going to take them.

Mr. Rashid: What I don't want to see happen is that we sign a contract saying one week, and then we look up three weeks from now and they're still stumbling around here, manpower issues and other things that have nothing to do with what we need. We need to be able to at least rely, that within 10 days, they walk away.

Mr. Rashid: Ultimately, based on what Mr. Cooper prepared, and we are presenting for them to give us a quote on, at the end of the day, when they walk away, they can hit the thermostat and the heat will be running through this building.

Ms. Turner: Yes, that is. Mr. Fambrough.

Mr. Mays: What you have to understand, Madam Chair -

Mr. Fambrough: We went through this before. One, twenty-seven, six, and we didn't get no heat. \$127,600.00 dollars, and we didn't get no heat. And then we learned later that there wasn't a warranty, we couldn't go back and it was a mess.

Mr. Rashid: Anyway, I want to talk about Air-Temps Mechanical. Is that's what 'Air-Temps' means? Is that the formal name of the company?

Mr. Latimer: Yeah, they're out of it now.

Mr. Rashid: Now? Well, my question is to Mr. Latimer. You said there was something left out of their proposal that would cost \$5,000.00 more dollars?

Mr. Latimer: Based on second hand information from my staff.

Mr. Rashid: Well, Air-Temp Mechanical has a relationship with the library spanning years. They've been here fixing on the heat. And keenly aware of the pipe situation, those rusted pipes, and all of that. And we've been paying them chunks of \$4,000.00 here, \$3,000.00 there, \$8,000.00 there. They never fixed the problems. We just paid them, and they would seem to walk away with that cash. Because, if we were looking for heat to be repaired ... Boiler people and furnace people know heat. Well, they should know that those rotten pipes need to be replaced, but they didn't. Those pipes been like that for years and getting worse and worse. But Air-Temps, I'm glad that Air-Temps is not who we're sitting here talking about. Let me just say that.

Ms. Turner: That's, that's yours. Mr. Mays?

Mr. Mays: Madam Chair, I move on the recommendation of administration, I accept it as well. I move that we employ A&J Plumbing and Heating for \$8,500.00 dollars.

Ms. Turner: There's a motion on the floor.

Mr. Rashid: I'll second.

Ms. Turner: A move and a second. Any more discussion?

Mr. Rashid: Discussion -

Ms. Synor: I just want to -

Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Rashid seconds employing A&J Plumbing and Heating for \$8,500.00.

Mr. Rashid: I'm sorry.

Ms. Turner: Ms. Synor?

Ms. Synor: I just want to make sure that the contract is reviewed by the Buildings and Grounds committee, that the points that Mr. Rashid brought to light, the contract. Making sure the licenses and bonding is in place, and that ... I understand that you're saying they're licenses and bonding. But they need to be licensed and bonded at the time that we go into the contract with them. That's a significance difference, for this job. That's something that's important to look at. Just, this cost CYA program, so we're responsible for that. So, before we go into a full contract, we ask that they submit a final, a last and final offer or bid, to make sure that they've covered all the costs. Then bring that to the Buildings and Grounds Committee, and in that way, if we need to have a meeting to approve any adjustments or anything like that, we've covered that to make sure. Before we go full-fledged into the contract and then they come back and say, oh we missed something. I think we just need to have everything completely [crosstalk 00:51:02].

Ms. Turner: Now the question is, given the time-sensitive nature of this, can you guys pull an emergency meeting of Buildings and Grounds? Because the truth of the matter is, this is all actually within the Director's allowance. Also, we've said, these are the things that are our priority. I don't necessarily know that Mr. Rashid or Mr. Mays, looking at it, when we've very explicitly said, make sure that they're bonded, make sure that the contract ... It needs to get handled in a particular way, and made that specific, that them having an emergency meeting, given the time frame. Like I said, we are all busy people. Mr. Latimer is here, so if there are things people have concerns for, I would say, please ask Mr. Latimer to handle that. But the idea that you've got to ... He can't move forward until he can get two of us in the room, that can become problematic when it's freezing.

Mr. Rashid: Can we ... Madam Chair?

Ms. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Rashid: There's another way we can do this. Using the electronic devices, if you send the contracts ... I don't know if we have to have a special meeting. I just want to be able to work with Mr. Mays and preview, so the three of us can figure out how to make sure that we just see it. Any questions that we have we can address it right there, we can do a phone conference, we can use our computers.

Ms. Turner: I think that's a much more reasonable way to go about it. Because it is a struggle for us to get together sometimes, and if the company is available to

do it within 48 hours, we want to make that happen. So, I would say, that the thing that makes sense to me is that, Mr. Latimer, you go about the business of working with Mr. Cooper and Mr. Cockfield. Make all of that happen, and once everything is pulled together, have it so that the two staff meet two board members to look at it, and understand what's happening.

Mr. Mays: I'm sorry, I'm sorry, Madam Chairman. I would like to put that in a motion whereas, if anything comes up, and just protecting our posterior, that anything comes up, they'll say okay, the board voted that this take place. Under these circumstances, that the three of us meet, or what have you.

Ms. Turner: Well, the thing that I would like to say is that you guys ... He'll present the information to you, but the thing that I would ask is, if you got it, review it quickly and get back to him. Because we can't have it held up. It's cold in here. And so, I know there was a struggle, that you guys weren't able to have a Buildings and Grounds meeting last week, and I completely understand how that happens. But, putting the onus on Mr. Latimer, to make sure you have a full-blown meeting, I don't think is reasonable. That's the thing that I'm saying.

Mr. Rashid: I don't even know if we needed one.

Ms. Turner: Yeah, I don't either. I think that if you guys want that information -

Mr. Mays: Listen to what I'm saying. To cover your posterior, Madam Chairman, I would like to make a motion that it is ... The three of us get together and see that we move this forward. I just like to have it on record, whereas we cover our posterior. So anything -

Ms. Turner: I think our posterior is covered whether the three of you get together or not, is the point that I'm making. Is that ... Here's the thing. I think Mr. Latimer is going to pull it together, he's going to send out the final information. To the board, and you can send it out to all of us. We don't all need to respond. The truth of the matter is this; it is cold in this building.

Mr. Mays: Yes it is, and that's why I -

Ms. Turner: And so, I don't think that making a ... I'm only one board member with one vote, but my thoughts on this are, is that, we have said what our priorities are to Mr. Latimer. If he can, he will pull it together according to those priorities. That he handle this from here on out, and if anybody wants to know where we are in the process, you can call him, or he can send an email out and say, this is what's happening.

Ms. Turner: But, the idea is that we don't want to clog up the process with having to pull ... having him to have a definite meeting with the two of you, that's what I'm requesting. So, Mr. Fambrough?

Mr. Fambrough: It seems to me, the time to have done that is on that one, twenty-seven, six that we spent. We needed to hang it out there, now that's going to be eventually ripped out altogether and we get nothing. Here we are with a small amount, worried about our posterior, but on a huge amount we didn't have no concern. That's amazing to me.

Ms. Turner: I don't necessarily know that all of that from the 127 is lost, based on the conversation the Mr. Denk had with us. But, I hear what you're saying. So, can we, do we have a motion on the floor to support -

Ms. Synor: We already have a motion on the floor. We were having a discussion. The motion on the floor is to accept A&J Plumbing and Heating to do the work. That's the motion that's on the floor.

Ms. Turner: Okay. We've had a motion, was there a second made?

Ms. Synor: There was already a second -

Ms. Turner: We have a motion and a second, can we ... Are we done with discussion? Can we have a vote, Mr. Turner?

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Ms. Turner: Okay, great.

Mr. Fambrough: Motion carries?

Hiring A&J
Plumbing and
Heating for
\$8,500 is
approved.

Ms. Turner: I'm sorry?

Mr. Fambrough: Motion carries?

Ms. Turner: Motion does carry.

Mr. Rashid: Can I just take a moment to thank Mr. Latimer for his diligence and work in terms of preparing this stuff for us, and for giving us a way to look at this that makes sense to us? Thank you very much.

Mr. Fambrough: I'd like to request the actual quotes that came in, so, if you can email it to me?

Mr. Latimer: Okay, we can get that to you.

Mr. Fambrough: Thank you.

Ms. Turner: One of the things I think is important as we move on, is that there is times when we get way more information than we actually need, for ... You can look at it, you're welcome to it, but when you're making a presentation for decision making, a lot of times all of that is not necessary. And I do appreciate the way that you summarized it. Absolutely. I appreciate the way that you summarized it, and made it easy for us to digest it.

Mr. Fambrough: Madam Chair?

Ms. Turner: Yes.

Mr. Fambrough: I co-sign that.

Ms. Turner: Thank you! Thank you for the co-signature.

XIV. FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Turner: Okay. Finance Committee report. The chair is not here. Mr. Rashid, would you like to speak?

Mr. Rashid: I just wanted to briefly touch on that 'cause it was ... in account of why I asked Mr. Cockfield who was present at our last Finance Committee

meeting was that there's been no discussion about the utilization of any money in this building fund, and I just wanted to confirm that with him because ... and I'll leave my statement at that for right now. And is that correct, Mr. Cockfield?

Mr. Cockfield: We have no funds encumbered. You are correct.

Mr. Rashid: Thank you. Okay. That's it. If you want a more detailed report from us, it would probably only go over what Mr. Cockfield has already offered to us today. Now Synor being out, I can't speak for her, but that would conclude any input that I would have at this particular time.

Ms. Turner: Okay. Great. So Finance Committee report is done. Personnel Committee report.

XV. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee did not meet.

XVI. BUILDING AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE REPORT

Ms. Turner: So, we did not have finance committee and we did not have personnel committee, correct?

Ms. Synor: No.

Ms. Turner: Buildings and Grounds also did not meet?

Mr. Mays: Well, we met.

Ms. Turner: You met when?

Mr. Mays: On September the ... was it the 19th, I believe?

Ms. Turner: You met [crosstalk 00:58:36]

Mr. Rashid: ... We talked to him. To Mr. Latimer.

Ms. Turner: Okay, so, but you guys didn't meet since our last meeting? Or did you?

- Mr. Mays: Yeah, we met. We had that special meeting, remember? That special meeting, that was ...
- Mr. Rashid: Oh, yes, yes we did.
- Ms. Turner: So, you guys did have a meeting, but this [crosstalk 00:59:08], this is what we were talking about, so we don't have anything more to talk about. So, there was library services, so Ms. Shaheed?

XVII. LIBRARY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

- Ms. Shaheed: Okay, Library Services committee met October 12th at 4:13. And we more or less summarized, summing up the following activities, that was presented in the booklet for the fall.

For the children, they're going to have a Halloween party, October 30th, and for the teens, a Halloween party, October 29th.

They're going to have a story telling gathering, about Bessie Palmer, who got the first international pilot license. And I'll go on through this quickly.

Also, they have a literacy contest. All the kids will write essays about Thanksgiving and New Year's, and crafts going to be set up for children, in celebration of Christmas.

Teens are going to have a readiness program which will prepare them for job interviews, how to write a resume, use of social media, et cetera. Mr. Latimer already talked about the Cleveland Rape Crisis Center, and they had classes September 13th and October 11th. The purpose of that was to explain to the youth what is a good relationship as opposed to bad one, which ... if you feel uncomfortable in a certain situation, if you're raped, what to do about it, and where to go.

Banned Book Week, we talked about that. Typing classes for teens, quilt class, we talked about in detail. A line dance club for teens, as well as a Halloween party October 29th.

For adults, there's going to be discussion on human rights. In that discussion, hopefully human rights versus civil rights. And that's the quickie.

Ms. Synor: [inaudible 01:00:56] The only thing I didn't hear from Library Services or activity, which has been in the past, was a Kwanzaa activity?

Ms. Shaheed: Oh, it wasn't listed in the book, but we'll talk about it.

Ms. Synor: Alright. I just wanted to throw that out there, because I know in the past we've had Kwanzaa activities and I didn't hear any for that this year.

Ms. Turner: Usually there's an external organization that comes out, doing that. I think these are only library sponsored, not ... Mr. Fambrough?

Mr. Fambrough: In the past, the library has also sponsored these things along with someone, an agency and the mayor. But, Ms. Shaheed, you mentioned a teen activity?

Ms. Shaheed: Yeah.

Mr. Fambrough: Would that occur in the teen room?

Ms. Shaheed: Yeah, some booklet, that he has ... you have the booklet, right? [crosstalk 01:01:46] You want to get a Fall booklet, they have it here. To look and see where -

Mr. Fambrough: I just want to know, is it going to be in that room?

Ms. Shaheed: Well, there's a lot of activities in different parts, I imagine. Some things [crosstalk 01:01:55] here. I've been to some activities with teens and they've been in this room here.

Mr. Fambrough: Okay. Well, also, when you refer to teen activity, that teen room is called the Shirellda Helen Terry Teen room, and that was designated that by the board. So, I'd like us to use the name, when it's appropriate to use the name.

Ms. Shaheed: What name is that?

Mr. Fambrough: Shirellda Helen Terry. She was an East Cleveland young lady that lost her life when a serial killer was loose out here, and we changed the name of that teen room to her name.

Ms. Shaheed: Okay, no problem.

Ms. Turner: Was there anything else? Anyone else want to talk about? Okay.

Ms. Synor: I actually do want to mention, now that we brought up Shirellda Helen Terry, I'm [inaudible 01:02:50], with intent to Shirellda Helen Terry's

mother, I know that she usually comes here and they put on a safety program for young women and things like that. It's usually held here as well, and it may have taken place earlier this year, but it did not-

Ms. Turner: It didn't happen this year.

Ms. Synor: It didn't happen this year?

Mr. Turner: Not yet. It's towards the end of the month.

Ms. Synor: Okay.

Mr. Fambrough: Can you email me the information? Time, date, room, and what have you, so I that I can -

Mr. Turner: For Shirelda Terry?

Mr. Fambrough: Mmm-hmmm.

Mr. Turner: Yeah, and in case you guys are wondering, it is on our website.

Ms. Turner: Okay, thank you.

Ms. Turner: Okay, so now.

XVIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION - THE DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS RELATIVE TO LIBRARY ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Turner: Now we need to go into executive session. Discuss personnel matters relative to library administration. We have a motion to go into executive session?

Ms. Synor: I move that we go into executive session to discuss the personnel matters related to library administration.

Ms. Shaheed: I second that motion.

Ms. Turner: Okay, it's been moved, it's been seconded. Mr. Turner?

Ms. Synor moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds going into executive session.

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

(Meeting moves into Executive Session at 7:35pm).

Executive Session is approved.

Ms. Turner: It's eight o'clock and the regular October 2018 board meeting for the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees is called back to order.

Ms. Synor: Madam Chairman, I move that we come out of the effective discussion.

Mr. Rashid: I second that.

Ms. Turner: Move to the second, Mr. Turner.

Ms. Synor moves and Mr. Rashid seconds coming out of executive session.

Discussion:

None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. Synor (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

(Meeting comes out of Executive Session at 8:00pm).

Executive Session ends and Regular Board of Trustee meeting resumes.

XIX. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. Turner: Okay moving forward, next thing on our list is new business. In new business, Mr. Fambrough requested this as an opportunity to address the board that this is most likely, or possibly, his last meeting with us as a colleague and he wanted to take the opportunity to express some ideas. He will be doing so for the next 5-minutes. Ms. Synor is going to do the timer.

Mr. Fambrough: Thank you madame Chair. I first learned that our library needed rescuing in early 2011 when area wide gossip warned a takeover of the library was imminent. Upon checking with residents I became aware that two scenarios were afoot and learned that some residents were resigned to accept a takeover because they thought that the matter was already a done deal and that fighting against it would be in vain. Scenario one would lead to closing down the library because it had no money and wouldn't be able to sustain itself into the future. Scenario two would immediately transfer full ownership and control of this library to the county library system. Neither scenario presented any way out of the situation. Legal representatives from the Cuyahoga County prosecutor's office appeared to be undermining in working against the interest of the library while supporting and working for the interest of the Cuyahoga County political machine which wanted to cannibalize our library and make it part of the county library system. Lawyers from the county prosecutor's office consistently failed to advise the trustees of any alternative other than annexation. If pride is satisfaction derived from one's own achievement, then community pride is satisfaction derived from community wide achievements and promote likeminded cooperation and unity among residents.

The East Cleveland Public Library is this community's pride and joy. If other cities are proud of themselves because of their assets and achievements then East Clevelanders are proud of East Cleveland because of our assets and achievements. The East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees believe that they were saving the East Cleveland Public Library because it had no money as they unanimously voted for the 113 year old institution out of existence. By reviewing the Ohio Revised code, I learned that the school district free public library's received annual funding allotments from Ohio's public library fund along with mobile property taxes, fees, gifts and grants. This meant that the library was not out of money and that the whole premise of having to hand over our library to the county library system because it didn't have any money was just not true. By this time the trustees

were being bombarded by residents who now have copies of the Baldwin Wallace Feasibility Study in their hands at meetings and could challenge gossip and misinformation that some politicians and residents still regarded as gospel. It seemed odd that the trustees have voted affirmatively for the takeover, but at the same time could not justifiably explain why they did so in light of 2 glaring facts.

One, that the library was sitting on an additional four hundred thousand dollars of unreported surplus funds. And two, that the third option outlined under the Baldwin Wallace Feasibility Study allowed the library to remain independent and continue to operate indefinitely under the ownership and control of the trustees. The beleaguered trustees appeared inept, uninformed and out of touch with the will of the East Cleveland community. They were publicly embarrassed and ultimately all seven resigned in mass from their positions on the trustee board. The second impactful community project that I worked on was the initiative to remove the Mayor and Council President from elected office. This effort made national news reports. Today, East Cleveland stands tall and proud as a role model city admired by other cities for our courage and tenacity. We earned national acknowledgement and made history by removing politicians perceived to be working against the public interest. Our recall initiative campaign won by a mere eighteen votes.

Over the past seven years I have served on the trust team as a trustee for the East Cleveland Public Library Board. During that time I've been Board President, Vice President and Secretary. Though not without help, I stood against all the takeover efforts that came. First, the one to seize the library and then the one to seize the entire city and they both were laid to rest. Seven years later, contrary to the pugnants and naysayers, our library is still an independent under the ownership and control of its trustees and still operates in the black. Thank you very much.

Ms. Turner: Thank you Mr. Fambrough.

XX. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Ms. Turner: Okay, our new business is finished and now we are now opening up the floor for audience participation.

Ms. Chambliss: Well I have an announcement to make, a very important announcement. It's Mr. May's birthday.

Dr. Rice: Happy Birthday Mr. Mays.

Mr. Mays: Thank you.

Mr. Turner: Yes.

Dr. Harris: I'm with the storytellers. The Cleveland Association of Black Storytellers, I am the former International President of National Storytellers. But this is one of our affiliate organizations, the African-American Quilt and Doll Guild, they are inviting the library to have some teams. Maybe about seven to ten teams attend their quilting show and what not. However there is a problem, transportation. That's the problem that we have but I remember the library had a van. So, do you think we would be able to use the van if the employee rides with the students? We can get like, permission slips from parents? Why are you all laughing?

Ms. Turner: We don't have a van. However, I will say that this is a conversation that went on in library services and I am also the member of a Quilters Guild, Quilter and Dollmaker's Guild. So this is the conversation that we've had with Director, she is aware and she's probably falling back on the stack. So absolutely, I also met with Ms. Dye earlier today and brought her actually some of those same cards and we are absolutely, as an organization, very interested in having people come and see the work that we've done and participate. Also, they would be able to support the skills we can pass on to every generation.

Mr. Fambrough: Tell Dr. Harris it's always a pleasure when she comes. Thank you for coming, good to see you.

Mr. Mays: Madame Chair, since it's my birthday...

(Everyone begins singing Happy Birthday to Mr. Mays)

Mr. Mays: Now, no one can go out of here without getting cake.

Dr. Rice: Except for the diabetics.

Mr. Mays: Even the diabetics can have some.

Mr. Turner: Before we cut the cake, before we call an adjournment it's to thank you for your services Mr. Fambrough. We do appreciate [inaudible 00:10:08]. Your thoughts and your energies to this organization.

Mr. Fambrough: Thank you very much.

Mr. Turner: And you know whether you are a board member or not we expect to see you around here and encourage you to come and volunteer in the near future.

Mr. Fambrough: I probably will.

XXI. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Turner: I'm willing to entertain a motion for adjournment.

Ms. Synor: Okay then. I move that we adjourn our meeting.

Mr. Mays: Second.

Ms. Turner: Moved and second. Mr. Turner.

Mr. Turner: Wait, I had two seconds. [crosstalk 00:10:47] Alright, Mr. Turner?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Turner (yes), Ms. McClarin (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Fambrough (yes).

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

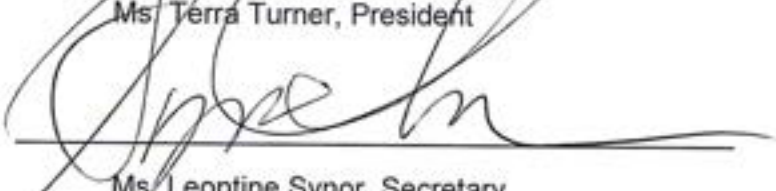
[The meeting adjourned at 08:11 pm]

Ms. Synor moves and Mr. Mays seconds adjournment of this meeting.

Motion passes for adjournment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Terra Turner', written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Terra Turner, President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leontine Synor', written over a horizontal line.

Ms. Leontine Synor, Secretary

