

East Cleveland Public Library  
Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting

To join the meeting type the following into the address bar of your digital device's web browser:  
<https://www.facebook.com/ecplib>

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021  
6:30 PM

MP3  
RBOT20210218

Mr. Rashid called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

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

Present: Mr. Rashid, Mr. Mays, Ms. Shaheed, Ms. Sharpley, Mr. Silvera, Dr. Harris

A quorum exists. Present – 6; Absent-1

Also present at the table were: Mr. Carlos Latimer (Executive Director), Mr. Cockfield (Fiscal Officer), Mr. E.F. Turner III (Exec. Admin. Assistant)

**II.**      **LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

**Mr. Rashid**                      Okay, that constitutes a quorum. So, we can begin the meeting, I'm go with the "Lift Every Voice and Sing" again. And maybe at our next meeting, we'll come up with a way to possibly be able to individually just maybe quote, or we can split up the entire song, and each of us just maybe read the words of it or something like that. So we can get it into the record. But for now, I just want to skip over that. Does anybody have a problem with that?

**Mr. Mays**                      No, we have no problem with it, but maybe you can sing. We can listen to your melodious voice. Every force insane to heaven and earth rings.

**Group**                              (Laughter)

**Mr. Rashid**                      Okay, I'll move on to the approval of the agenda. Do we have a motion to approve the agenda?

**III.**      **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**Mr. Silvera** I make a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

**Ms. Shaheed** Carol Shaheed, I Second.

**Mr. Rashid** We have a motion. It's been second. Any discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Turner would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds the approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved.

**IV. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 21, 2020.**

**Mr. Rashid** Alright. Six yeses, so the approval of the agenda has taking place. The next item on our agenda is the approval of the regular Board Meeting Minutes from 12/21/2020. Do I hear a motion?

**Dr. Harris** Maryann Harris. I Move for approval of the board meeting minutes 12/21/2020.

**Mr. Rashid** Do we have a second?

**Mr. Silvera** I second that motion for approval.

**Mr. Rashid** There's a motion and second. Is there any discussion?

**Mr. Mays** Yes, there, Mr. Chairman. I know that we did not clarify. And I know that it was suggested in those minutes that I would be invited. I think when Mr. Silvera said that he would invite me to the finance committee meeting. I don't think it necessarily has to be discussed in the finances. It should be discussed with the board period, that any grants that's coming in, you don't do a resolution before you receive the grant. After you received the grant, you do the resolution. As I said before, if there aren't any stipulations in the grant that we received, how it is to be spent and what it is to be spent on? Then the board will put those stipulations as to with the director given us things that need to be done or whatever we also see done and then we recognize that we have received the grant and notify them that we've received them and thank them. That's the way grants are received. You don't you don't do a resolution before you receive it. Because you have not seen it, you don't know what the stipulations are. He just sent you a letter of acknowledgement that you will be receiving the grant, so we'd be on the lookout for it. That's the way grants are received and not doing the resolution before you receive something you can't count the bird in the bush, you have to only count the bird that you have in your hand.

**Mr. Latimer** We agree with you Mr. Mays. We've actually followed that as a practice. So thank you for reinforcing that to us.

**Mr. Mays** Thank you. That's what the discussion I had on the minutes.

**Mr. Rashid** Was that reflected in an issue that you have with the board meeting minutes from 12/21/2020?

**Mr. Mays** No, this is December the 21st, 2020. Those only minutes I have.

**Mr. Rashid** Right. That's what I'm saying is that is what you were referring to something that was reflected in those...

**Mr. Mays** ...Yes. I guess it was reflected in these minutes? Yes, sir.

**Mr. Rashid** Is there any further discussion about the minutes? Hearing no further discussion, Mr. Turner would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Dr. Harris moved and Mr. Silvera seconds adopting the minutes for 12/21/2020.

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Minutes from  
12/21/2020  
are  
approved.

**V. COMMUNICATIONS.**

**Mr. Rashid** Six yeses, the regular board meeting minutes have been approved. Moving on to the next item in our agenda which are communications from the administration. Do you have any to put forth?

**Mr. Latimer** The first communication is from the United States Census 2020. It says the US Census Bureau hereby recognizes the East Cleveland library system as an invaluable member of the 2020 census community partnership and engagement program. We appreciate the efforts you've made in making the partnership program a success and helping you achieve a successful 2020 census. Dr. Steven Dillingham, Director of the US Census Bureau. The next communication is from Judge Una Keenon is thank you, for all that you do Happy New Year. She sent us flowers to the East Cleveland Public Library. After we acknowledged this communications, we will send her a nice, thank you.

**Mr. Rashid** Oh, that's nice. Was that a personal reference or the school board?

**Mr. Latimer** It was from her.

**Mr. Rashid** That's nice that she's thinking about us, that's wonderful. We'll make sure we respond to her appropriately.

**Mr. Mays** Mr. Chairman, I question to the director. Mr. Latimer, do you have any information as to the census, how we did as far as we did in counting people in the city of East Cleveland?

**Mr. Latimer** Right now, the last numbers that I checked, which was a couple months ago, because the census has been shut down. They're still in the process of recording all of the information, which was a delay in the release of information, normally there's a timeline. I believe it won't be released until early summer 2020. At that time, the numbers only represented there 30% of the estimated population.

**Mr. Rashid** I got a question for you too. I heard some news or information that the census might be opening back up again or something to that nature. Did you hear anything about that?

**Mr. Latimer** Yes, I've been following the census, most recently based on the president and how he managed the situation. They're discussing doing this, because we also want a pandemic, where a lot of communities that were under counted, and there was a lot of transient individuals, with college students being at home that normally they count at the university, and a various variety of other situations. There's discussion of doing some level of a recount.

**Mr. Mays** Just to add to it, Mr. Rashid. The pandemic had some impact upon the census. Is that correct? That's one of the reason they stopped counting people. I guess answering their doors. So whatever.

**Mr. Rashid** Yeah, maybe so. And now the issue too, is that when they did the census, it wasn't over 400,000 people that are no longer here. So I don't even know how that's going to impact the numbers. I did hear that there was some activity going on around an additional count or additional activity with the Census Bureau. So I guess we'll just stay tuned for, you know, for further knowledge and updates. Is there anything else in your communication, sir?

**Mr. Latimer** Nothing else.

**Mr. Rashid** Next item on our agenda is the President's report.

## **VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**Mr. Rashid** I don't have really anything this month, so we can skip over that part and go to the Director's report.

## **VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Mr. Latimer** The Director's report is very brief. I want to thank you to Carol Shaheed and Dr. Harris for participating in the book discussion by Jason Reynolds; we will be broadcasting that audio program. Also, the deadline to register for the library trustee's workshop is February

28th. That's with the Ohio Library Council and will be on March 6th. It's an all day workshop at 8:45am to 4:30pm.

**Mr. Mays** And that's held where?

**Mr. Latimer** Yeah, this workshop will be virtual. So if you want to register, sending that information, I believe we have Dr. Harris, who already submitted to be a participant. We will be registering after February 28th. And you will receive a link from Ohio Library Council if you're interested. They will give you all of the steps for participation. So the deadline is February 28th. The actual date of the event is March 6th, 2021 from 8:45am to 4:30pm Virtual.

**Mr. Latimer** If you would like lunch maybe Mr. Turner can do Uber Eats or something like that. But we'll take care of you.

**Mr. Mays** So we're gonna be at the library?

**Mr. Latimer** If you want to be you can. However, you can Zoom in from home.

**Mr. Silvera** That way you'll have all the food you want right at home.

**Group** (Laughter)

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, if there are no further communications. Well, I think I want to sign up for that virtual trustees meeting. I think it'd be worth it to listen in anyway.

**Dr. Harris** Make sure you sign me up, MaryAnn Harris.

**Mr. Mays** I guess you can sign me up.

**Mr. Silvera** Is that a Saturday?

**Mr. Rashid** Yes, that's a Saturday.

**Mr. Silvera** Okay.

**Ms. Shaheed** I'll have to let you know after I check my calendar.

**Mr. Turner** I have Dr. Harris, Mr. Rashid and Mr. Mays. Anyone else?

**Ms. Sharpley** ...And myself.

**Mr. Silvera** I'll let you know next week. I'll confirm with you before the end of next week.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay. Yeah. And I guess if any other information needed or communication, we can go directly to Mr. Turner, he will be able to handle that for us.

**Ms. Shaheed** Did you say the workshop was from 8:45 to 4:30?

**Mr. Rashid** Yes. Yeah. I think that's what he said.

**Mr. Latimer** We can make arrangements for lunch; we can have a pizza delivered to your home. We have no problems making accommodations for lunch.

**Ms. Shaheed** If you're joking, you should say that. I might check you up on that.

**Mr. Latimer** It's fair use of dollars. This is professional development for our board.

**Mr. Rashid** So all right, that sounds like a winner. So if there are no further communications, we can move forward. And Mr. Cockfield, would you please do the Fiscal Officer's report?

**Mr. Turner** Point of order. I'm sorry, Mr. Cockfield. Before we get started, we need to vote on the Director's Report.

**Mr. Mays** Oh, I move that we accept the director's report as given.

**Dr. Harris** Second, MaryAnn Harris.

**Mr. Rashid** Motion has been second. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Turner would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

<p>Mr. Mays moved and Dr. Harris seconds approval of the Director's report.</p>
---

Motion passes.

The Director's report is approved.

**VIII. FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT (R. COCKFIELD)**

**Mr. Rashid** The Director's report has been accepted. Next item on the agenda is the Fiscal Officer's report. Mr. Ross Cockfield.

**Mr. Cockfield** Thank you. I'm going to try to share my screen now.

**Mr. Rashid** You did a pretty good at that finance meeting. I watched on YouTube. That was a great meeting between you guys. I really enjoyed watching it.

**Mr. Cockfield** Is everyone seeing my screen?

**Group** Yes.

**Mr. Cockfield** Well, I'm going to read this, I had emailed it out as well, but I'm sharing it for a particular reason. Let's see if I can. Okay, this is prepared in February 2021. And I'm just going to start reading calendar year 2020 is remaining open and adjustment to our revenue was required because our book balance at the end of the year was being understated from our bank balance. Our new bank book balance, as a 12/31/2020 is \$1,181,156. Changing from \$1,156,524.13, a difference of \$24,631.87. The error came about from an adjustment to property tax revenue in the month of September, which in fact did not need to be made. The adjustment created the understatement of our book balance which has been corrected. all the entries for January are in the system but are not posted pending the final close of 2020. for the month of March, I will be providing a reconciliation of banks and fund balances covering the months of January and February period. 2020 will be closed within next week and will be filed before the close of February. This month, we presented our 2021 permanent appropriations budget to the Finance Committee. Total general fund appropriations are being increased to accommodate a set of major projects that administration is proposing for this year. Without the major projects the permanent appropriations are unchanged from our temporary appropriations which were approved in December. The major projects are as follows. And this is the primary reason why I email this out and I'm reading it we have our print copy station. These are the lease costs for the equipment of total

lease cost of \$3,672. This actually represents lease costs from roughly from May to the end of the year. So obviously that could change depending on when the copy station is put into operation. Then we have the huddle space, electrical staff desks, workstations, the roof over the nonfiction area, which is at \$36,000. New carpeting, which is only going to be for 1/3 of the library. And we're budgeting that at \$50,000. And then the marquee, which we're budgeting high at \$116,500. So, the total cost of our major projects is \$241,172. And then I go on to say that the total general fund appropriations, with the major projects included, are \$2,573,845.43. Going on, we submitted a draft of our revised internal control policy for review by the Finance Committee. There were suggested additions, which have been made, and will submit the revisions for their review and possible approval in the month of March. And that, completes my report. Are there any questions?

**Mr. Rashid** I got a question. Prior to the pandemic at which altered our budget for 2020. What was the total amount that we had appropriated for projects last year? I'm just curious.

**Mr. Cockfield** Oh, there were actually no major projects, budgeted everything was actually a part of the facilities budget, the general facilities budget which Mr. Cooper had presented, I can if you'd like, let's see if I can...

**Mr. Rashid** ...That's not necessarily just curious. I knew that we ended up spending over \$200,000 to redo the boiler system. I was just curious how close we came to the appropriations for this coming year and what percentage difference whether it was up and down, but it's not really a critical number that I needed. I was just curious, that's all.

**Mr. Cockfield** Well, I'd be more than happy to pull that together and send it to you.

**Mr. Silvera** Mr. Cockfield? My question is, regarding the major projects, we have some carryover from the PACE project.

**Mr. Cockfield** Only \$5,000. Yes.

**Mr. Silvera** Is any of that \$5,000 being applied to these projects to comply with the usage?

**Mr. Cockfield** Yes, it can be applied to certainly the electrical the roof.

**Mr. Silvera** Has a decision, we may yet on that or no?

**Mr. Cockfield** I would simply include that as part of the as part of the payment program. Once we receive the invoices, I would simply submit an

invoice or submit a document for reimbursement to NOPEC. But it's it would be used? Yes. All right.

**Mr. Mays** My question is in reference to what are you basing the marquee on as well as the roof or you going on past experiences? Or have you had some input as to what it will cost us to repair the roof on the side that's leaking that has not been repaired?

**Mr. Cockfield** That's a fair question. Mr. Mays. These are numbers that were supplied to me by Ms. Flood and Mr. Cooper. What I had done over the last two months, is ask them to pull their information together, do whatever research they needed to do in order to supply me with numbers that they felt comfortable in justifying. So the detail behind the numbers would actually be something that they would have to get further discussion on. But the marquee, I know that they had received proposals or numbers anywhere between \$70k say, maybe \$75k and \$116,000. Obviously, I budgeted high. And then we have the roof, which I'm sure Mr. Cooper had received quotes on or proposals for, and this was a number that I included in the budget.

**Mr. Mays** Okay, well, we'll have further discussion in Buildings and Grounds in reference to the roof as to whether there is proposals, or whatever.

**Mr. Latimer** Okay, once the permanent appropriations are approved, we will be presenting to the board in March full layout and the full report of the quotes that we've received on all of the projects, the processes and the legal steps that we need to take to move these projects forward. So those and more details will be forthcoming in the month of March. We can do it at the committee meetings. We could do it at a special meeting or we can do it at our scheduled board meeting.

**Mr. Rashid** Director Latimer, I would like to move as post-haste as legally appropriate. So once we actually get the numbers and the time line as to how long it's going to take to complete the projects, I think the sooner we get that information, the better off we're going to be. Because we definitely want to get the marquee installed once we decided upon a vendor, as well as the, the situation with the roof because with the way that the weather is so erratic. Now, of course, we'd rather get it fixed sooner than later. So, once we have that presentation the board will be prepared to move forward as quickly as possible.

**Dr. Harris** MaryAnn Harris, I have a question about the marquee. Have we decided yet on the exactly where we'll be located and the size of the lettering?

**Mr. Latimer** No, there has been no decision based on the quotes that we received, the variety of sizes, and styles and locations. So that'll be part of the presentation for the board will be very involved in the how it looks.

**Mr. Mays** Come to a Buildings and Grounds meeting.

**Mr. Rashid** I think the presentation that's going to be made for the projects should be done in a board meeting as well. So we can all get it at the same time. Because sometimes the Buildings and Grounds meetings, but we know that we all will, collectively be at our board meetings, and I just think it may be a better route to try to make that presentation at the full board meeting.

**Mr. Mays** But no, it will come out at the full presentation. Mr. Chairman, it will come out, but it's discussed in the Buildings and Grounds committee. And that will come out to full board. Yes, I agree with that.

**Mr. Rashid** How can we have a discussion of all the members aren't present?

**Mr. Mays** That's why we have committees we meet in committees to iron out those differences. And we discuss that. And then we bring it before the full board as to whether we want to vote on we don't vote in committees, we just discuss things in committees, we bring it back to the full board to vote, you cannot vote in committees. It's just a discussion to find out all the details, get that together where it will be presented at the board meeting. And then the board would ask questions as well.

**Mr. Rashid** But that's just my point. The overall and complete presentation of each one of these items would be better served at a board meeting when everyone is in attendance, rather than to do it in a Buildings and Grounds meeting, then turn around and have to do the same thing again, in a board meeting. Because in the Buildings and Grounds meeting, it will only be you and I there. There's no else.

**Mr. Mays** That's understood. Then we don't need committed meetings if we don't if we don't hash out and try to get some things out of the way as we can present it to the full board. ...There are other members that have questions and concerns. And they will be answered or can be sometimes can be deleted, or there could be an addition to that the purpose of having committee meetings?

**Mr. Silvera** Mr. Chairman? I think one way to resolve this this question is committee meetings are recorded. So once the meetings are recorded, then that link can be sent to all the board members for them to review. Based upon their review, they can come up with their questions and make that available either prior to a meeting or at the

meeting, but at least that way, everyone would be able to look at the recorded meeting to see what's going on and what questions are being asked. Ideally, if we can attend the committee meeting that will be greater but if people who can't attend at least having the ability to review the recording of the meeting would be helpful.

**Mr. Rashid**

What if we just moved the committee meeting to have minutes before or after the board meeting, because I still say the same thing to sit in there and go through a full presentation with just the two of us sitting there. And then we are the only two people providing input at that particular time. But if that same meeting that he's going to hold with us everyone was present, then we all would have whatever input because in the interest of expediting the process, I don't think it is effective to have to two separate means when we can just do it in one where everybody is there, they can give the input. Because even if I send you a link, and you're listening later, it's still not the same as it would be if we were all sitting together trying to iron out what we thought about it and... That's just my thought process. If everybody doesn't agree to it, that's fine. I'll just drop it. But I was just thinking in the interest of having a professional presentation presented to us all, it would be better served if we were all present.

**Mr. Mays**

Mr. Chairman, I agree with are part of what you're saying. But the purpose of trying to get the nuts and bolts together, is in the committee meeting, you discuss these things in a committee meeting, and you bring it up before any decision is made, it has to be made by the full board, they have an opportunity to ask these questions, or whomever may be coming to make the presentation to meet with the full board. I agree with that, but the discussion takes place in your committees. That's why you have committees, if that's the case, then everything like Finance it should be discussed in an open meeting, but you cannot do that, that's not the way businesses operate day to day. That's why you have committees to discuss, try to get the nuts and bolts out there, and whatever. And then you bring it to the full board or how the person that making the presentation, make his presentation, or he or she made their presentation and the full board, which is

**Mr. Rashid**

We're doing the same exact thing twice, because the full board will have input as to what decisions we make. So what I'm saying is that it does not make sense to me to have that presentation there and then turn around and have the same exact presentation. And the only two people sitting there is you and I. Because you and I can't make any decisions without the board. We know what we want to do. We want the marquee, we want to do a roof, and whatever else is on that list of things to do. So it's not an issue of we don't know what it is that we're going to talk about. So that when that presentation is made, it's made in front of the full board so that everybody can have whatever input

that they want, right then. What difference are we going to make in a committee meeting? You and I can't make any decisions, because it's just the two of us sitting there. But anyway, what I would like to do is to move the committee meeting either before or after the board meeting so that we could have this presentation in front of everybody instead of doing it twice. I just cannot see how it's effective to have that presentation, on an item that important to us. And there's just nobody sitting there with you and me, and then we turn around... Because whatever we say, we still got to go back to the full board to discuss it. There will be no input from anyone else if you and I just did it in Buildings and Grounds.

**Mr. Mays** That's not true, Mr. Chairman. I have to differ with you there. That's not true. Everything that has taken place with the roof before we discussed it in committee, and it came before the full board and made the presentation. And that's the way businesses operate.

**Mr. Rashid** But you keep saying that as if it was fixed in a stone marble tomb.

**Mr. Mays** I didn't say it was fixed. I mean, I have no problem with it. We'll just move on, but I have no problem with it.

**Mr. Rashid** So we'll figure it out. What day do you have in mind to have this information so that it's ready to be presented?

**Mr. Mays** No one has it as of yet they still in the discussion stages and contacting vendors. So that's just discussion now and as far as the roof I don't know whether they have gotten appraisals or whatever. Those are presented and they'll let us know and they'll present it to the full board as well.

**Mr. Rashid** They do have numbers because they got them from somewhere. That's what we're putting in...

**Mr. Mays** ...Well no. He said if you heard his presentation, they try to set it high. I guess it come from some past experiences of checking with other people that have marquees or whatever they cost and they have contacted I guess certain people, but all of that will be brought up at the full board meeting as well. All of those things will be brought up and discussed as well as in the committee. We don't know as of yet what going on. So I don't want to jump the gun. We have to do our due diligence first and the committee and then it comes to the full board and they will have their discussions and questions and deleting or adding to or whatever the case may be. That's the purpose of your committees, trying to iron out some of those things. When it comes before the full board. They'll surely have their say, and agree or

disagree. Yep. And that's the way it has been done and that's the way it has been done with the roof, if you recall.

- Mr. Rashid**                    Alright, where are we at now?
- Mr. Mays**                     The finance report. I think he finished, that's what we were discussing.
- Mr. Silvera**                  Okay, Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the Fiscal Officer's report.
- Dr. Harris**                    MaryAnn Harris, second.
- Mr. Mays**                     Second
- Mr. Rashid**                  I think Dr. Harris popped in there before you did Mr. Mays.
- Mr. Mays**                     No, she didn't. She popped in after me. But anyway, you can go I yield.
- Dr. Harris**                    I yield to Mr. O. Mays. MaryAnn Harris, yields. Thank you.
- Mr. Rashid**                  I have a motion and a second to accept the Fiscal Officer's report. I'm hoping there is no further discussion. Mr. Turner. Would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Mr. Mays seconds approval of the Fiscal Officer's report.

The Fiscal Officer's report is approved.

**IX. COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**Mr. Rashid** The Fiscal Officer's report has been approved. Next is the committee updates. We have a chairperson. We have the finance committee report. So please, Mr. Silvera, you now have the floor.

**A. Finance Committee Report (Chairperson)**

**1. Resolution 02-05-2021: To Accept the Permanent Appropriations.**

**Mr. Silvera** Thank you very much. Right now we have two resolutions that we're bringing before the board. First is Resolution 02-05-2021 to accept the permanent appropriations. I'm going to read the document here. Members of East Cleveland Public Library's Finance committee, having met discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on Thursday, February 11th, 2021. Resolution 02-05-2021 resolute to accept the 2021 permanent appropriations, whereas the finance committee has met reviewed and discussed the appropriations budget and whereas the permanent appropriations must be approved by March 31. Now, therefore, be it resolved that the permanent appropriations be approved for the following general fund \$2,573,845.43, building fund \$20,000 COVID relief on \$14,781.86, Performing Arts Center fund \$13,500 for total appropriations of \$2,607,345.43. I asked for this appropriation to the approved.

**Mr. Rashid** I hear a motion is there a second?

**Dr. Harris** MaryAnn Harris, I second the motion.

**Mr. Rashid** Dr. Harris Seconded. Is there any further discussion on the matter?

**Mr. Mays** Yes, Mr. Chairman, you see here it speaks volumes. Here, Do we have into discussion as far as the full body in reference to these monies that are allocated to various entities here. That's what I was saying things like this are discussed in committee and brought to the full board and the full board will have an opportunity. I mean, before they go into resolution, but this resolution has been prepare. And we didn't have an input here.

**Mr. Rashid** I beg to differ with you, sir. The finance department did give us a complete understanding of what's going into these numbers before they ever came before the board. In fact, we discussed it at our last board meeting. And the numbers were sent to all of us, but neither

here nor there. Is there any further discussion about resolution 02-05-2021? Mr. Turner, would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (absent due to disconnection), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 5

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Dr. Harris seconds approval of Resolution 02-05-2021.

Resolution 02-05-2021 is approved.

**2. Resolution 02-01-2021: To Accept the \$400 Donation from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library.**

**Mr. Turner** Technically we do have enough votes to go ahead and pass it. We have five yes votes

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, we do have enough votes that the actual resolution did pass. So, you can go for the next one.

**Mr. Silvera** Okay, next resolution is resolution 02-01-2021 to accept the \$400 donation from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library. All right, members of East Cleveland Public Library's board of trustees have met and discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on February 18th, 2021. Resolution 02-01-2021 to accept the \$400 donation from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library. Whereas, the East Cleveland Public Library's board of trustees hereby accepts the recommendation of the Executive Director to accept the \$400 donation from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library. And whereas the donation accepted from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library will be used to purchase four 32 inch smart televisions that will be raffled off to register viewers of the library's online screening of "Freedom from Juneteenth", a partnership with Karamu House, and now therefore be it resolved adoption of

resolution 02-01-2021 for the acceptance of the donation from the Friends of the East Cleveland Public Library, to allow for incentives for encourage public participation in the "Freedom from Juneteenth" program. I move for adoption.

- Mr. Mays** I second.
- Mr. Rashid** It's been moved and second. Is there any further discussion?
- Mr. Mays** Yes. Mr. Rashid or the Director, whoever may answer this question. The money is to be used to purchase four 32" smart TVs, that will be reflected off of the registration views of the library online. This is just a donation, this wouldn't buy the four smart televisions, is that correct?
- Mr. Latimer** We receive the funds from the Friends of the Library. So the funds were donated for the specific purpose to purchase the smart televisions for us to raffle off as part of our Black history month program.
- Mr. Mays** How many televisions are you planning on purchasing?
- Mr. Silvera** Four is what it says in the resolution, Mr. Mays.
- Mr. Mays** Okay.
- Mr. Rashid** I think he's baffled at the fact that you are going to buy four TVs for \$400. But that's not the case. That's just a contribution towards the purchase. Is that correct?
- Mr. Latimer** No, we got a great deal on those. You can find a 32" smart television for maybe \$100 - \$120 bucks.
- Mr. Mays** Yeah, that's what my question was.
- Mr. Rashid** If there's no further discussion, Mr. Turner, would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Mr. Silvera moved and Dr. Harris seconds approval of Resolution 02-01-2021.

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Resolution  
02-01-2021  
is approved.

**B. Personnel Committee Report (Chairperson)**

**Mr. Rashid** Thank you very much, Mr. Silvera. Next item on the agenda. Committee updates Personnel Committee update.

**Ms. Shaheed** Mr. Chairman, the Personnel committee met February 11th, 2021. Through a virtual meeting at 12:00 PM. Several items were discussed in reference to the COVID-19 update. At the present time, only people aged 65 and older are eligible to take the vaccine, along with essential workers. And I think teachers were added to that list has been essential workers. Is that correct Mr. Latimer?

**Mr. Latimer** That is correct.

**Ms. Shaheed** Now, once the vaccine is available, people in their particular age group cannot use an excuse not to come to work if they have refused to take the vaccine. So, once your age group is approved, you cannot use that as an excuse not to come to work because you have refused the vaccine itself. Is that clear, everyone?

**Mr. Rashid** I'm a little confused.

**Ms. Shaheed** Let's go back. Once the vaccine is available to people in a particular age group? Because it's not now, it's just ages 65 and older and also essential workers. Okay, like I'm eligible, because I'm 74. But if you are at least 65, you can take it other than that, you have to wait. Now, once your age group becomes available, you cannot use an excuse not to come to work, if you actually to refuse to take the vaccine itself. Some people may say, "I'm not coming to work because I'm because I didn't take the vaccine" or whatever. That cannot be used as an excuse not to function because you decided not to take this vaccine once it becomes available.

**Mr. Rashid** I see what you're saying. Because I was wondering if it meant, if you get sick, and you didn't take the vaccine, you can't use that illness as an excuse and get paid for not coming to work.

**Ms. Shaheed** Okay, moving on. More clarification, new law states that a person cannot be terminated for being out with the virus, if they think they have the virus or think they might have been exposed to the virus or they've been around or that someone in the family has been exposed to the virus. So, you cannot terminate the job. But at the same time, they will not receive pay. Are there any questions about either one?

**Mr. Mays** Well, let me ask the question, because I'm not quite understanding you. If I refuse to take the vaccine when it became available for my particular age. So whatever was essential work or whatever it may be, and become ill, as the President has indicated, so you're saying that I will not be paid sick time because I'm ill. Is that what you're saying?

**Mr. Latimer** Let me start back from the beginning. Back when the Coronavirus became public, one of the acts they put in place for HR was the families first coronavirus response act. Some of those rules within that act were very loose, which kind of favored the employee instead of the employer. So between March, up until December 31st, there were a lot of employees not only at the East Cleveland Public Library, but across other industries that somewhat taken advantage of having to Coronavirus someone being sick in their family coming into contact. So the rules and laws were favoring the employee. Now, that act expired on December 31st. So a lot of that act is being rewritten. So we're in this window right now, from December all the way to March because the CARES act has not been up to date. We're still waiting for all of the legality around the HR. So what we're doing is following the recommendations from ADP, which is our HR solution, or OLC, that's Ohio library Council. And we're dealing with at East Cleveland Public Library, each situation case by case. We only had two incidents. We had zero exposures by staff. But we had two potential situations where someone had to quarantine at home for three days; we followed the recommendations of the CDC. At that time, those two employees, they accrue sick time. So it's not an issue. Our issue is going to happen with these laws that are written, we have a lot of part time employees that don't have sick time. So they don't accrue any sick time. So if they decide to be out the decision of, are we legally obligated to pay them because they are out? And they follow under this act? Or do they just take leave of absence because we can't fire them? Or any type of termination or anything like that until this pandemic is under control and clear. So right now, the HR law favors the employee as opposed to the employer.

**Ms. Shaheed** I didn't get a chance to read the complete website. But it seems like it's constantly changing the rules on a regular basis. And it depends on particular circumstances with certain people because this is something that's brand new. So it seems that these rules are constantly changing the individual circumstances may alter certain rulings. That's how it would appear to me. So right now you can't use an excuse like people have in the past that I've been exposed to a person which my daughter in law told me that I've been exposed so I'm staying home for 10 days. If you stay out for 10 days you won't get paid that's what you're saying now, right Mr. Latimer?

**Mr. Latimer** Right. Prior to December 31<sup>st</sup>, if you say you were exposed to someone and you were out 10 days, we were required by law to pay you. Right now, you can be out however, we're not obligated to pay you.

**Ms. Shaheed** And once the vaccine becomes available in your age group and you decide not to act upon it. You can't use that as an excuse in the future as why you cannot come to work or whatever.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, okay.

**Ms. Shaheed** It's kind of confusing because it's constantly changing, and this is all new to everybody evidently and I know a lot of people are taking the shots to Moderna shot I'm trying to wait for the Johnson & Johnson shot. Yeah, that's what I'm trying to wait for but I understand is not as effective, but I have good reviews from them a Moderna shot, my friends have taken it and one person that took it they took the first and second shot they didn't have any reaction whatsoever.

**Mr. Mays** I know some have taken it and have caught the virus again.

**Ms. Shaheed** Ms. Sharpley, could you share with them what you said about the person that you knew that already had the virus, they didn't know they had the virus but they have to shot?

**Ms. Sharpley** One thing about it is that in this another doctor that had just recently passed in from Coronavirus, who had taken his second round or his second shot. If you already have the Coronavirus and you get the shot. There is it doesn't save you because you already got he already got Coronavirus. My girlfriend, this was last week. So about three weeks ago on Thursday. She went down, her and her three girlfriends, caught the bus and went down to Harbor Lights and that their first round of Coronavirus shots. She said the next day; it was on Thursday, next day that Friday. She said her nose started running a little bit and she lost her sense of smell. But she knew that, you could have symptoms after taking a shot. Well, Saturday when she woke up

this is going into the second full day of having a shot. She said her legs were on fire and she could barely stand Plus she couldn't smell. So she went and got one of the rapid tests done and it came back that she had full blown Coronavirus and that's because, when she went and got the shot, she already had the virus so the shot was an effectual to her only she was asymptomatic. So when she got the shot the shot brought off the symptom. So, you know, she ended up with full blown Coronavirus, but I sent the link to one of you guys but it was a doctor that recently took his second round of shots with Coronavirus, and he died from the Coronavirus because if you already got it, the shots or nothing, they're not going to do anything for you. If you're asymptomatic, it just seems like it would behoove you to not get the shot because the shot is what really brings out the symptoms. If you're asymptomatic, and you get the shot, because it doesn't protect you from getting Coronavirus, because you already got it.

- Ms. Shaheed** Yeah, but if you have the virus after 10 days, can you take the shot?
- Ms. Sharpley** I don't know.
- Mr. Rashid** That's the thing; there are just so many unanswered questions. That's a good question. Because if you're a symptomatic, and you have it, don't know it and go take a shot. That's like you adding more Corona to the Corona you already have.
- Ms. Sharpley** And that's exactly the case, because she didn't have any symptoms of it. She was walking around, spreading it around, you know, her girlfriend's going to get the shot and bounced to them, that they arrived with Corona, you know. They had to get tested, because they already got it prior to taking the shot.
- Mr. Rashid** That's why that mask is important.
- Ms. Shaheed** They might have you tested before you take the shot, you think?
- Mr. Mays** I thought they do test you before they give you the shot. And secondly, if you have other symptoms, or what have you, that could aggravate those symptoms that you have like diabetes and other problems that you may have.
- Ms. Shaheed** If you just a regular person whose asymptomatic, and you just go there, but it seems like the another layer should be if you have no medical issues, you still have to test whether or not you have it because they're not doing that now, because I have friends that just shot. So there's another layer that needs to be added, you have to have the test to test to see if you haven't it, then you get the shot.

**Ms. Sharpley** Right. I agree.

**Mr. Mays** I agree with that as well. I thought that was the norms. You have to be tested.

**Mr. Rashid** I guess one of the issues that this seems to be bringing out is that there are no norms yet to keep moving the goalposts.

**Ms. Shaheed** The guidelines are constantly changing, like Mr. Latimer said, and we're still within the guidelines of the CDC. But it's constantly changing. I didn't get a chance to read this article that he presented to me because I had a call just before the meeting. But anyway, it seemed like they are constantly trying to find their way with this virus. We have to do the best we can. Okay, now any other questions in reference to the COVID update before I move on? Okay.

**Mr. Mays** I agree with you moving on.

**Ms. Shaheed** Okay, now since the reopening of the library, there have been no children yet. But somewhere between 10 and 12 people, adults, I guess daily. So also, with the reopening of the library, staff members are experiencing anxiety and stress, which I could understand why because you don't know who have this coming around you. It seems like the stress and anxiety has spilled over into personal conflicts between staff members and negative tones in language and also disrespect have surfaced among staff members. So in order to deal with the stress has been Mr. Latimer was considered having a luncheon for staff members or bring in a third party to mediate conflicts between staff members. So that's something that that he's thinking about,

**Mr. Rashid** What type of issues are these? Is the conflict in response to people coming now into the library? Is that is that what it is?

**Mr. Latimer** We're in a new phase where we we've been open to the public however, we're now open where patrons are spending a little more time in the computer labs on both sides in the Youth and Adult areas. So it has created, not only at our library but other places, people experienced stress and anxieties around staff members who are not vaccinated. The Coronavirus is still active. They read the news, they hear that there's another variant of Coronavirus, but you know, they come to work. So those are just normal behaviors, human behaviors that we have to deal with as managers, we are making adjustments, we will work to improve the morale around our reopening and see, you know, what the needs are, we're going to individually talk to staff members to see how they feel, and what support we can provide for

them. So we're going to be very proactive, knowing that there has been a change over the last eight or nine months in their work environment.

**Mr. Mays**

...As long as those people are protected, six feet apart, or what have you. And they test them when they come in; because they even test me today I went and picked up my packet today. Did I have a fever, whatever the case may be, so I'm just only going in and coming out so I don't feel this is necessary, but I cannot see them falling apart and becoming so discombobulated because of the fact that we're opening the library again to the public, because there are other public places open and the governor has said when they have shut down some of the other places I bars and casinos and things of that nature. They've opened them back up. But they say you must meet those prerequisites. And we have spaced those sitting in arrangements in the library. So we are doing our part and if the employees wear their gloves or masks and things of that nature... I don't know I just feel that that's a that's a cop out because there are people working every day with the nurses and the doctors and people working in the buses as our President is driving a bus with people who are not know six feet apart.

**Ms. Shaheed**

Mr. Mays, you know what? I can understand the stress because, if you work in a workplace, you're more or less isolated, but you having people from all over coming in with their own set of rules in their head, how are they going to function in the library? So you have people constantly reasserting rules and regulations. Some people choose to ignore people sometime regardless of what you tell them...

**Mr. Mays**

...And we need to kick those people out.

**Ms. Shaheed**

I understand that but just the process itself could be stressful. Just to go through the process of dealing with people who are always trying to find a way to get around the rules or whatever and getting mad at you because all you're doing is following the rules.

**Mr. Mays**

Right, I agree.

**Ms. Shaheed**

So I can understand how they might be a little stressed out and they need some type of help. And I think it's our job to provide help whenever they need it, but I will be stressed out if people are just coming in from whatever. Because I've watched people in the line at a regular store lines that supermarket and you have to put people out who refuse to wear a mask, they get loud and once they get in the place and have a mask and decided to take it off then they have to call security. I had a situation, I think it was Trader Joe's, a person

come in with the mask and they decided they will take it off and do what they want.

**Mr. Mays**

I agree with you.

**Ms. Shaheed**

So the people there are doing what they're supposed to do six feet apart wearing a mask. But when you have people coming in and they have their own rules in their own head, what they're going to do, that's stressful for the people that's actually they're trying to serve the public.

**Mr. Mays**

And I agree with you. And those individuals, you need to put them out if you cannot follow the norms here, you will not conduct you're not going to enter this library, you must have a mask on when you enter the library. I have encountered the same thing that he's just encountered. And I tell them in a minute, I said you must be six feet apart. I don't bite my tongue with them. You get up off my back. Six feet behind me and stay there until I move or whatever you move. I tell them in a minute. I don't care whether what color they are.

**Mr. Rashid**

Okay, so is there any additional...

**Ms. Shaheed**

...Yes, we do. Moving on. New business, evaluation forms for Mr. Cooper. Ms. Flood, Mr. Turner, and Ms. Chambliss will be completed by April and the format will be the same type of evaluation form that we use for the Director, Fiscal Officer. Oh, we also have a staff transfer from the Adult's to the Children's department Ms. Brown's position in the Children's service department will be replaced by Erica Dye.

**Mr. Mays**

Is that a new person?

**Ms. Shaheed**

Mr. Latimer would you like to add anything to what I've said or did I forget anything?

**Mr. Mays**

No. Before you go there Ms. Shaheed. Is this a new person? Or is this a person that's already here?

**Ms. Shaheed**

She's already working. Yeah.

**Mr. Mays**

So just removing her and shipping her around.

**Ms. Shaheed**

We're replacing Ms. Brown that was in the Children's department. She's gone and she's been replaced up Erica Dye. So it's just a transfer.

**Mr. Mays** I know we can't discuss personnel matters. But was there a reason or she left on her own.

**Mr. Latimer** She resigned.

**Ms. Shaheed** Ms. Sharpley, Is there anything I hadn't mentioned?

**Ms. Sharpley** No, you covered everything.

**Ms. Shaheed** You think so? Alright, then this concludes the Personnel Committee report. Are there any questions from anyone else?

**Mr. Mays** Thank you for your report. I mean, it's quite detailed and interesting.

**Ms. Shaheed** Okay, if you want to know I have the website that Mr. Latimer gave me in terms of the rulings in the workplace in terms of people getting paid or not paid. And I haven't had a chance to actually to read it. But if anyone wants to know, I have a website I can share with you.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay. Next item on the agenda is the illustrious Mr. O. Mays with the Buildings and Grounds committee.

**C. Buildings and Grounds Committee Update (Chairperson)**

**Mr. Mays** All right. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Buildings and Grounds met on February the 11th. And we discussed the roof some of the things that has been discussed already and I do not wish to label the point here because time is moving on. We discussed the roof. And there were some figures given to us in reference to \$28,000 to up to \$50,000 on the roof in the marquee was also discussed in our committee in the marquee. They range from \$70,000 to \$110,000 on the marquee, and Mr. Rashid you can jump in at any time too. Also the bathrooms, it's my understanding, one or two are in working order at this time. They have the bathroom sanitizer as well as the bathroom sink or whatever is also touch less. You don't have to touch it automatically water comes out.

**Mr. Mays** For the opening up the building. I guess the building is open now. Because I guess the bathrooms has been computerized. And I believe if my memory has served me well, I believe it's been there occupancy is up to 30 people that I guess they can handle them well. We discussed the property in the back. I wanted an update on that or if

the city or anyone had been contacted or the county to see what the status is with that property. And so we're still waiting for an update on that.

**Mr. Mays** Mr. Rashid, would you care to add anything that may have skipped?

**Mr. Rashid** No, I think that was comprehensive in terms of what we discussed at the meeting.

**Mr. Mays** Okay. Mr. Latimer is there anything I missed that was misquoted or whatever?

**Mr. Latimer** You do have a resolution on your agenda.

**1. Resolution 02-02-2021: To Accept the "Security Camera" Policy**

**Mr. Mays** Okay, yes, I do have a resolution. The resolution is 02-02-2021. I'll read the resolution. Members of the East Cleveland Public Library board of trustees have met discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on February 18, 2021, Resolution Number 02-02-2021 to accept security cameras policies. Whereas, the purpose of this policy is to continue our efforts to maintain the safety and welfare of patrons, staff and property of the East Cleveland Public Library. And whereas this resolution is to assist in discouraging violators of the East Cleveland Public Library's Code of Conduct and whereas security cameras will not be used to violate the privacy patrons or staff. And whereas archived footage is restricted to the library, administration and law enforcement and according to the laws and now, therefore, be it resolved the East Cleveland Public Library Board of Trustees agreed to the adopting of this security camera policies. I'm open for discussion, Mr. Chairman.

**Mr. Rashid** Do we have a motion for this resolution?

**Dr. Harris** I move for adoption of resolution 02-02-2021.

**Mr. Rashid** Do we have a second?

**Ms. Sharpley** I second that.

**Mr. Rashid** I've heard a motion and a second. Is there any further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Turner, would you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Dr. Harris moved and Ms. Sharpley seconds approval of resolution 02-02-2021.

Resolution 02-02-2021 is approved.

**D. Library Services Committee Update (Chairperson)**

**Mr. Rashid** Six yeses, resolution 02-02-2021 passes. The next item on our agenda is Library Services Committee update

**1. Resolution 02-03-2021: Adoption of the Patron Privacy and Confidentiality Policy.**

**Dr. Harris** Thank you very much. Library Services met February 11th. And we have a resolution to present. It reads, members of the East Cleveland Public Library board of trustees have met, discuss review and agree on the following items in an open meeting on February 18th, 2021. Resolution numbers 02-03-2021 adoption of the patron privacy and confidentiality policy. Whereas, the East Cleveland Public Library preserves the privacy and confidentiality of its patrons in compliance with the Ohio revised Code Section 149.432. And whereas if the East Cleveland Public Library is requested to disclose patron information for a subpoena, search warrant or other court order, the library will immediately refer to its legal counsel for guidance. And now therefore, be it resolved. The trustees of the East Cleveland Public Library agreed to adopt resolution 02-03-2021 for the implementation of the library's patron and Confidentiality policy. I move for adoption of this resolution.

**Mr. Mays** Second,

**Mr. Rashid** I've heard a motion in a second. Would you please call the roll, Mr. Turner?

**Mr. Turner** I'm sorry. Dr. Harris, did you say something?

**Dr. Harris** You forgot discussion after you called for a second.

**Mr. Rashid** Oh, I'm sorry.

**Mr. Mays** I think it was quite direct and to the point.

**Mr. Rashid** Is there any further discussion among the board members?

**Mr. Mays** Now I call for the vote Mr. Chairman.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

Yes – 6

Motion passes.

Dr. Harris moved and Mr. Mays seconds approval of resolution 02-03-2021.

Resolution 02-03-2021 is approved.

**E. Ad Hoc Committee Update (Chairperson)**

**Mr. Rashid** Six yeses resolution 02-03-2021 passes.

**Dr. Harris** Thank you very much. That concludes the Library Services Committee report today. Thank you.

**Mr. Rashid** And thank you for such a concise and quick report. That's great. The next item is the Ad hoc committee update.

**Mr. Silvera** Yes, thank you. The ad hoc committee did meet this past Thursday. We had a lot of material that everyone had an opportunity to review, including video footage of the several of the community development committee meetings that were held at City Hall. I think the short of it is that we've asked Mr. Latimer to parry communication, which would be directed to Ms. Solandra Wallace, who is the Land Bank Coordinator for the city of East Cleveland. And that would probably be sent under your signature, Mr. Chairman, to Ms. Wallace to get a status, confirmation and update on what the status of all the properties are based upon the last meetings of the Community Development Committee. And then once we get that communication back, then we will have a better opportunity to develop a much more precise methodology in terms of how we proceed Forward, but based upon the conversation that Mr. Latimer had with the Mayor, it really didn't provide us with the necessary information to determine which will be appropriate due diligence that we need to take. And since Ms. Wallace has the administrative responsibility to oversee land bank properties, that she would be the appropriate person to communicate with, and hopefully receive back all of the necessary information that we can then review and decide how best to move forward. So that's where we stand at this point.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, so what I'm hearing is that we're going to confirm with the land bank, the status of the property. So we'd like to...

**Mr. Silvera** ...as well as our applications that were before that committee, and just where the status of everything is since those meetings, and where the current legal status is of all the properties, just all the legal information we need to know, to be able to determine how we're going to move forward.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay.

**Mr. Silvera** Then once we have that information back, then we can decide, as a committee, we will meet again, and then make some recommendations for discussion that we will bring to the full board.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, is there any further discussion?

**Mr. Mays** Yes, I know a lot of it has gone past counsel, but counsel suddenly has the authority to say yea or nay as to whom is going to get the property, or whatever. So

**Mr. Rashid** Is the property still in the land bank?

**Mr. Silvera** Yes, it's still in the land bank, but at the same time, before we even approach Council, we need to do our due diligence with the administration. And then once we have the due diligence, and we have the documentation that we already have, then we can put together a comprehensive proposal that we can sit down with counsel about but we need to do our due diligence, before we sit down with council for any discussion on them providing us the properties through Council resolution.

**Mr. Mays** Have you checked with the county to see what the status is or whether they still...

**Mr. Silvera** ...The properties are still with land bank. It's the East Cleveland land bank, that's why we are communicating with Ms. Wallace, because she has administrative responsibility over land bank activities for community development.

**Mr. Mays** That's not totally true. The land bank that falls under the purview of council. And secondly, I hate to say this about our mayor, but our mayor, you cannot trust, he's telling you one thing and doing something else.

**Mr. Silvera** That's why we're not dealing with the mirror at this point. We know where he stands on this matter...

**Mr. Mays** ...So that's why I say we check with the county to see what the status is...

**Mr. Silvera** ...We've already gone to the county website and determined that it's still listed as an East Cleveland land bank property.

**Mr. Rashid** Ms. Sharpley you had your hand up, you tried to speak up earlier. You have the floor

**Ms. Sharpley** I just want to know with the information that I've got, I just want to be clear that I've got a series of videos, but it was only two of them replicated a couple of times. So I just wanted to make sure that I got everything so I can be clear and concise on what I saw.

**Mr. Silvera** I'll make sure I haven't a chance to review all the videos that were uploaded, but I'll double check to make sure that you have everything.

**Mr. Rashid** Another question that I have for you Mr. Silvera is, can you just quickly refresh my memory about the Ohio Ethics Commission's ruling regarding public officials acquiring property out of the land bank,

**Mr. Rashid** The way the law reads that any public official, whether it is a councilman, employee or elected official, cannot acquire any public properties that are owned by the city because they are land bank properties that are considered public contracts. So that will be a conflict of interest for any elected official, employee and or their direct family members cannot be engaged or be involved in acquiring any public properties. It is my understanding from when I talked to Council President Stevenson, there was a letter that was issued from the Ohio Ethics Commission to the mayor to confirm to him that he has no ability to participate in any public land bank properties because of the ethics rules, not only with the city of East Cleveland because East Cleveland has the same rule requirements as the state of Ohio. So it would be a violation not only of the East Cleveland laws, but also the state of Ohio laws...

**Mr. Rashid** ...meeting when they had talked with someone from the Ethics Commission, when the house on Forrest Hill was purchased by the Mayor.

**Mr. Mays** Let me respond to that, Mr. Chairman. If there aren't any takers of the public. The public must be cognizant of or notify, there's property in the land bank, they have the first preference of the property, not an employee or nor mayor, or council or anyone of that nature, because they see it first. And the law says they must notify the public there is property to be had. Now, if there is no public interested in the property, then the council or Mayor or whomever can apply for that property. And they must meet the guidelines that has been set up by the norms that has been set up by the East Cleveland the council in reference to that property, there's laws on the book that we've set up norms how the property is to be executed.

**Mr. Rashid** I understand that, but I have personally witnessed property being transferred and forwarded to a council person, without going through the proper channels.

**Mr. Mays** That is correct. And that can be brought up. And they can be handled for that because of the fact that law plainly stipulates that they see it first they know the property is available. But they must notify the public there is property in the land bank, and they must have first choice of the property.

**Ms. Sharpley** What I don't understand is if that's the case, this is supposed to be first come first serve for the property. This has been going on since 2014. And the property is still in nobody's name. From the information I saw, first it went from \$600 to the \$600 that you originally paid was only for the inspector but wouldn't pay me back. So you pay them the

\$600. Now you got to pay me \$600. But the property is in nobody's name still. Because like I said, the first video started and it was September 2014. And now we're in 2021. And still, even though we express interest in the property, they're still saying that the property is in nobody's name. That doesn't make sense. That absolutely doesn't make sense. Because, you know, here this property has been vacant. And what they said is, we'll buy it and then we'll sell it to you at cost. Who's going to buy it and sell it to us at cost, the city? I don't understand. Why is it almost seven years later and there is no body owning this property, even though we expressed an interest in this property, and they just hold on to it. It makes it makes no sense.

**Mr. Mays**

What happened was that when, I just called a name, because it's on the record, Gary Norton got some of his buddies. I won't call his name, anyway to appraise the property. Then he wanted the library to pay for his person that appraised and also, I guess buy the property or we weren't going to get the property or whatever the case may have been. And secondly, the library got their own appraiser. At the time, I wasn't on the board at that time, but I do have the records that someone had given to me.

**Mr. Silvera**

I was on the board at the time.

**Dr. Harris**

Mr. President, MaryAnn Harris has a point of interest. I think this discussion should go back to the committee.

**Mr. Rashid**

I agree with that Dr. Harris, because what I was thinking is that we've been over all of these facts before, but what you're saying, Miss Sharpley, I totally agree with and that was the purpose of forming this ad hoc committee to now take action to acquire that property. Because when the response came back to us, y'all give me a proposal, then I'll give you the property. First of all, that's just disrespectful. Secondly, you can't really put together a proposal or architecture or design without having the land and understanding what it is you're going to utilize to build it. So I think that it's only appropriate now that the ad hoc committee continues on the path of ultimately acquiring the property, and whatever process that takes, they will take us down that road. But I think we're on the right area to do that. And I think he could probably be done a lot faster than we may have anticipated. And it's just been sitting because for one thing, we have not really taken any real action until now. So now that we have that.

**Mr. Mays**

That's not totally true, Mr. Chairman. I have to differ with you there. The board has taken action, the board got their own appraisal, and they got their property appraised. And so there have been action been taken by the board prior to...

**Mr. Rashid** ...That was back in 2014, we're talking about now.

**Mr. Silvera** So that's why I say I think once we formalize the communication with Ms. Wallace and get the response back, then we can we can begin the next phase of our plan to, as a committee in terms of strategy, go about acquiring the property, but we need to take it in steps, and it's been a gap of years. So we have to do what we need to do to make sure that we close the gap from a legal perspective, and in terms from operations what city has done or hasn't been doing. And when we go to Council, we will have all our ducks in order and make it an easy decision for them to make.

**Mr. Rashid** Thank you very much.

**Ms. Shaheed** I have a question. Who do you complain to about the mayor and his actions in terms of doing the right thing? Because you know, they investigate themselves and whatever is this? What group do you go to?

**Mr. Silvera** As far as the city goes it's three branches of government. Council has ultimate oversight over the administration outside of any particular specific legal issue that the mayor or any other official would violate, then you would be deal with the county prosecutor's office or the state attorney general, depending on the nature of the of the issue.

**Ms. Sharpley** Mr. Silvera, at the time that Mr. King was advocating for his mother, wasn't he council during that time?

**Mr. Silvera** Yes. He was a member of city council at the time, yes. And he should not have been engaged. He should not have participated in those meetings. And his family should not have been able to make application because that was a direct conflict of the ethics requirement for him as an elected official for him as well as direct family members

**Mr. Rashid** We could bring charges against him.

**Mr. Silvera** Well, an ethics charge was made against Mayor King at the time. And that's why the state issued rules to him. I'm trying to get a copy of that communication, which would also be a part of the packet of information that we put together as well.

**Mr. Rashid** Because I mean, it's the same person that bought that house on Forrest Hills \$1,000

**Mr. Silvera** And really no work has been done. So that property should legally come back to the city because they have not complied with the rules

in terms of how they're supposed to maintain and upgrade those properties once they buy them out of the land bank. But that's something else. Our concern is the properties on Debra Ann Lane, the four properties that we want to try to acquire.

- Ms. Shaheed** Is there a time based on when you have to do improvements on a property?
- Mr. Mays** Yes. ...You have six months in which to make some improvement, but if you are unqualified to do that within those six months, you come back to Council and ask for an extension that's the way it operates.
- Mr. Silvera** And that's never been done as far as I know.
- Mr. Mays** Okay, and then if they do not do it within a year, and nothing has been done, yes, it can record revert back to the, to the city.
- Mr. Rashid** In the interest of time, is there any more discussion on this matter?
- Ms. Shaheed** I wanted to ask one question. What about the church right next to the library? Who owns that property?
- Mr. Rashid** I think Cleveland Clinic owns it. You're talking about the parking lot that we parked in sometime.
- Ms. Shaheed** Yes.
- Ms. Sharpley** I think they were trying to sell it like that church at one point. Now, you can rent out the kitchen for special events.
- Ms. Shaheed** But Cleveland Clinic owns it?
- Mr. Rashid** That's what I heard. I have not done the research to be able to...
- Mr. Silvera** ...If we find the parcel, we can go online, and look at the county my place directory and see who the property owners are.
- Mr. Mays** Oh, you're talking about the church?
- Mr. Silvera** Yeah, next door.
- Mr. Rashid** Is the parking lot the property of the library isn't the property of the church?
- Mr. Silvera** I think it may be a property of the church.

**Mr. Rashid** Church. Okay.

**Ms. Shaheed** Without that parking lot, we will be in trouble a lot of times. That's something to think about in the future.

**Mr. Mays** They never stopped us from parking there. They allow us to park there.

**Mr. Rashid** Yeah, but that's exactly why we're concerned about this expansion space too, you know, to move on in the back of the library, because we've been maintaining those two lots.

**Mr. Mays** Yes. That's another selling point. So either you're going to pay us for maintaining it or what have you and so no one is using it. So we should be able to get that property. And that let's hope that we will. Okay. Well, Mr. Chairman, if there's no further matters come before this forum. I move an adjournment, unless we go into the audience participation.

**X.** **NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Resolution 02-04-2021: Approval of Date and Time Change for Regular Board Meetings.**

**Mr. Rashid** There's one more agenda item we have in new business that I asked to be placed on here for approval. Resolution 02-04-2021, approval of the date and time change for our regular board meetings. After discussing with various members of the staff and looking at the response that we received from the public. On the last time we held a meeting. On our Saturday, we have far more participation. And sometimes when our meetings are scheduled, the library actually is closed on those dates. So I wanted to put the resolution up we could table it, you can vote it up or down. But I actually wanted to bring that resolution to the floor today.

**Mr. Mays** Mr. Chairman, I'll take the gavel and yield to you.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, resolution, 02-04-2021 approval of date and time change for regular board meetings. I motion that for the adoption. But first, I want to set the date because it's, I got to find it here.

**Mr. Mays** You said, change the meeting date and time to be the third Saturday of each month at 2pm. Except for July for the board, vacation if the meeting date falls on a special closing or holidays. Crossing, at least close to our holidays and board will meet on the next Thursday, following the date of the meeting would have been scheduled? Is that what you're looking for?

**Mr. Rashid** Yes.

**Mr. Mays** So I want to open it up for discussion.

**Ms. Shaheed** This is Carol Shaheed, I like it. Yes, that's the third Saturday of the month at two o'clock. That's a good time. And it's the third Saturday, which means not every Saturday, and you can adjust. And I like that. Is this for now on or just winter months or the summer months, or what?

**Mr. Rashid** We have the ability to change it as needed. But for now, once we do this, it'll be that set day going forward. Unless we decide to make another change as a board

**Ms. Shaheed** I like this; you know what I like it, because number one is always light up at two o'clock pm. And also, Ms. McClarin was talking about meeting in the evenings when you have a crime rates going up in every area. I think this is a safe time. And I liked it. And like you said, it was more participation because people are home on the weekend. I like it.

**Mr. Silvera** Yeah, I kind of agree. Well, my only issue would be maybe a little bit later in the day versus 2:00 PM.

**Mr. Mays** We have changed dates and times, or what have you. And we had participation even when it was seven o'clock. We changed it to 6:30PM. And we had participation. No one is coming now. But I just I have some problems with this flip flopping. And because this is would be the third time that we have changed things. And nothing has changed. People still come but they're not come in now, because of the pandemic challenge that we are faced with. And then on Saturdays, that's people's either rest day, or they don't work five days a week, some of them some of them work on Saturday. So the only time where people are not working is some people are working at six o'clock or seven o'clock in the afternoon because some people work in the afternoon some work during the day and they get off at four or five and come to the meeting. We have had that library filled up with people that come into the meetings. No, they not come in now, or what have you, they're not participating. And so we have to look at that. We have to look at if we want to draw the public in to participate.

We have to set a time that they can participate and two o'clock in the afternoon on Saturday. Some people are resting, they don't work all day.

**Mr. Latimer** Sometimes we have to make adjustments to meet the community. This particular meeting today, it has four viewers. When we had the meeting on Saturday we had 40 viewers, by far more than what we've had. So it looks like a lot of people and committee members were available when we had our last meeting on that Saturday.

**Ms. Shaheed** This is Ms. Shaheed, if I had a job working every single day, you think I would like to look at and observe a meeting at seven o'clock at night or 6:30PM rather than on a Saturday afternoon, one day out of the month?

**Mr. Mays** Yeah, I understand what you're saying if whether it's on Saturday, or whether it's on a Monday, or Tuesday, or Wednesday, or Thursday or Friday. It's still just one day once a month that we meet. But committee meetings, was supposed to be from six o'clock or 6:30 until seven o'clock, eight o'clock. They were scheduled at different times. So I don't know whatever. It's open for discussion. Are there any further discussion?

**Ms. Shaheed** This is Ms. Shaheed again. When I was teaching school, and I was talking to people all day long, there's no way I would actually try to attend a meeting in the evening. In fact, my husband would give me an hour to get myself together when I came home before I start cooking and dealing with anything else. Because you work all day long talking to people and dealing with people, and I think on a Saturday is like a relaxed day. I like the idea. Now, I don't know how we're going to vote. But it's okay with me because I'm retired. But I know when I had a regular job, it would be better for me to actually be more relaxed. Because it's no way in the world that a person that works all day long will actually want to tune in and watch a meeting that they don't have to look at.

**Mr. Mays** Is there any further discussion?

**Mr. Rashid** I'd like to put the motion on the floor.

**Mr. Mays** Are there any further discussion? Are there any further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Rashid, the ball is back in your court?

**Mr. Rashid** Yes, I'll make a motion for resolution 02-04-2021 the approval of date and time changed for our regular meeting to be adopted. Can I get a second?

**Mr. Mays** Is there a Second?

**Ms. Shaheed** Yes. Carol Shaheed, second.

**Mr. Mays** It has been moved and properly seconded. Are there any further discussion? Are there any further discussion? Are there any further discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Turner poll the board for resolution 02-04-2021.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (abstain), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (abstain)

Yes – 4; Abstain - 2

Motion passes.

Mr. Rashid moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds approval of Resolution 02-04-2021.

Resolution 02-04-2021 is approved.

## **XI. OLD BUSINESS**

**Mr. Turner** Four yeses and two abstain.

**Mr. Mays** The motion carries.

**Mr. Mays** I'll turn the gavel back over to the President.

**Mr. Rashid** Thank you very much Mr. Mays. The next item is old business and I don't see anything. The next thing is audience participation. So do we have any input from the audience?

**Mr. Mays** Before we go to audience participation, Mr. Chairman, the new business I made mentioned at the last meeting and I think it bears

mentioning it again. I guess would be to the administration or whomever does the resolutions, that you must put a date and time on the resolution, not because you got it up here in the preamble, it must be down here whatever date it passed on, as well as for the signing of the resolution, there must be dates and time and every vote in the box, where you call out the names when this resolution passed or fail? That should be here in the box and what date it was. Like today, this resolution passed February 18th, 2021. And that needs to be on every resolution, because you pick up this resolution and just see some names checked off that they voted Yay. When did they vote on this? When did they sign this?

**Mr. Latimer** Mr. Mays, we get it. We'll make that change.

**Mr. Mays** Okay, I hear you. When are you going to make it?

**Mr. Latimer** On any resolutions moving forward after today?

**Mr. Rashid** Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be on a Saturday and in March and will determine if that's going to be an in person meeting or zoom meeting as we see what's going on with the pandemic and our situation because we have spent a lot of money on PPE equipment for the library. And if...

**Mr. Mays** ...you're taking it out of my mind Mr. Chairman, that's what I was gonna ask, why did we spend all this money and we still not meeting? We have set up and it was really nice. I don't mean to take it away from you. But I was going to say the same thing when you got to make mention of that.

**Mr. Rashid** Okay, well, you know, let's plan as a group to do it in person unless something else comes up. Well, we absolutely can't. Our plan is to do the next one in person. So the next item on the agenda is the audience participation.

## **XII. AUDIENCE PARTICPATION**

**Mr. Latimer** I don't see any comments. Mr. Turner. Did you have any comments from the public?

**Mr. Turner** I do not see any.

**Mr. Rashid**  
adjournment.

Alright, the next item on the on the agenda is the motion for

**XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Harris** I move for adjournment, MaryAnn Harris.

**Mr. Mays** I second.

**Mr. Rashid** Mr. Turner call the roll.

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Rashid (yes), Mr. Mays (yes), Ms. Shaheed (yes), Ms. Sharpley (yes), Mr. Silvera (yes), Dr. Harris (yes)

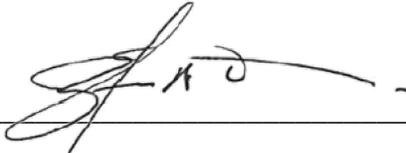
Yes – 6

Motion passes.

**[Meeting is adjourned at 8:33 PM]**

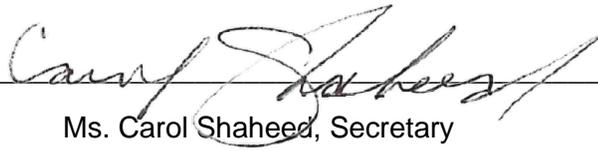
Dr. Harris  
moved and  
Mr. Mays  
seconds  
adjournment.

Adjournment  
is approved.



---

Mr. Zakee Rashid, President



---

Ms. Carol Shaheed, Secretary