

**East Cleveland Public Library
Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting**

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SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 2021
2:00 PM

(Disclaimer)

Mr. Rashid

I want to say to the people who are viewing us online, that we are actually in our safe space cubicles. So if you see us speaking without a mask, it does not mean that we are not behaving responsibly and making sure that we are social distancing. As a matter of fact, we are actually set up in little compartments and what we see here, everybody should be safe. So Mr. Turner, would you please call the roll to see who was in attendance?

Mr. Rashid called the meeting to order at 2:11 PM.

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I. CALL TO ORDER
A. ROLL CALL

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

A quorum exists. Present – 5; Absent - 2

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

(Everyone is invited to sing.)

III. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Rashid

Thank you. Next item on the agenda will be the approval of the agenda.

Mr. Mays Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the agenda as written.

Mr. Rashid It's been moved. Can we get a second?

Mr. Silvera I second.

Mr. Rashid I have a second. Is there any discussion? No discussion has been recognized. Mr. Turner, would you please call the vote?

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 5

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Silvera seconds the approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved.

IV. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM MARCH 20, 2021.

Mr. Rashid Five yeses. The agenda has been approved. The next item on the agenda is the approval of our regular board meeting minutes from March 20th, 2021.

Mr. Mays Mr. Chairman, I move to approve the minutes as printed.

Ms. Shaheed I second.

Mr. Rashid It's been motioned and it's been second. Is there any discussion? Hearing no discussion. Mr. Turner, would you please call for the vote.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 5

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds adopting the minutes for 03/20/2021.

Minutes from 03/20/2021 are approved.

V. COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Rashid Five yeses. So we have approved the regular board meeting minutes from March 20th, 2021. The next item on the agenda today is communications, and that will come from our director.

Mr. Latimer Mr. President, there are no communications,

Mr. Rashid No communications.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rashid Next item on the agenda is the President's report, which I had some items that I wanted to share with everyone. The first thing that I wanted to talk about is the fact that the 11th Annual Conference of the American librarians it is being held July 28, through August 1 2021. I'm really disappointed this year, because we've all been informed that it is not going to be live. It's going to be virtual this year. And I was really looking forward to some of the activities that they had planned during our visit in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mr. Rashid As a matter of fact, what they had tentatively talked about was based around Black Wall Street, and the Tulsa massacre, and they had a lot of different things that they were discussing, that would have taken place if we were actually going to visit for those were. But for those who don't know, the Tulsa massacre took place on May 31 through

June 1, 1921 when mobs of white residents, many of them deputized and given weapons by city officials, attacked black residents and businesses of the Greenwood district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. It has been called the single worst incident of racial violence in American history, the attack carried out on the ground and from private aircraft destroyed more than 35 square blocks of the district. And at that time, the Greenwood district was the wealthiest Black community in the United States and known as Black Wall Street. So I can't express my sadness about the event and not being able to go to Tulsa, I was really looking forward to that. But anyway, it's going to be virtual and for those who want to sign up and actually attend, I think Mr. Turner is getting feedback from those who actually want to attend.

Mr. Rashid

The next item that I wanted to report out about is that I attended the buildings and ground meeting and we discussed our progress relative to the marquee project that is going on, that we're currently all working on as a group. And one of the things I would like to suggest or recommend to all the board members, is if you get an opportunity, take a look at the marquees and the renovations that have been done to the South Euclid library, the Beachwood library, Cleveland Heights library and just look around because I'm thinking that I would like to see that our process, what we're going to do will result in something that will reflect the upgrading of the building, the upgrading of the marquee, and that the sign would be integrated into the current layout right now, and architecturally, it was fifth, I'm not comfortable with what we been presented with so far. It's a 16-foot sign sitting in front of the front of the library. But that's just one proposal of many. So what we thought about is that we would like to get suggestions and compare design approaches. Today, Mr. Cockfield mentioned to me, one of the ways we may be able to accomplish that, is to issue an RFP or request for proposals, because there are several very professional design firms around the city of Cleveland. And what I was thinking when we went down this path is that these individual companies would be contacted about our project, and then they could offer their input and even give us a presentation and each company may have a different way of approaching it. So we could take a look. We've seen one approach then, we could take a look at several different approaches and with the budget We have, I feel confident that we're going to be able to find a design that will fit and work with a company that will be able to work within our budget and do a fine job because this institution deserves the due diligence that we should put forth in selecting this new marquee, because it's just not a marquee, it's basically the approach to the entire building, and what people will see. So the director and I have talked about that, and our consultant can help us once we acquire all of the responses for the request for proposal. So we'll continue to move forward in that way, and if Mr. Mays has anything else that he wants to add in the Buildings and

Grounds report, we'll talk about it then. But I just wanted to share my thoughts about that. We've also received a new shipment of cleaning supplies and PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) for the community. And I'm sure that the director will give us additional information like that. But what I would like to have is a list of all the charitable organizations in the city of East Cleveland, because each of us have a certain number of boxes of this equipment that we can assign or point to a charity of our choice. And then I think this is the way we do it, if I'm not mistaken, Mr. Director, is that we have people come here and we give it to them?

Mr. Latimer That is correct.

(Dr. Harris joins the meeting at 2:21PM)

Mr. Rashid Okay, we'll see. And there were certain numbers of boxes that were designated for each one of the members. And if we had a list of the charities, homeless shelters, and everything else in East Cleveland, I'd like to select mine to contribute in the name of the library to one of those organizations. So if we get our staff to give us a list of those organizations. That's what I'd like to do with mine. And I guess everybody can decide how they'd like to distribute theirs. But that's pretty much what I had today for my President's report and

Mr. Mays A question in reference to the person whom we have brought aboard. How will he fit into this equation? And how will we use him? Are we paying him? What are the services he's providing at this point? So I would like someone to articulate as to how he would fit into this.

Mr. Mays Yes. I was just frustrated, how the presses moved, we have now working with us, how would he fit into this equation? If we go out for bids, whether they will still utilize his service, or pay him for the service and that he has provided or keep him on payroll? So I would like to answer that question.

Mr. Latimer Okay. Yes. Major Harrison is on contract with us. We've agreed to pay a flat fee, not an hourly rate. So this is news to me today that we're going to add another process to this, the request for proposal, which he can help us and assist us with that process as well.

Mr. Rashid That's what I'm thinking. That's what I thought as well. Because once we receive back a list of proposals and designs, because the proposal would be designs, I guess, for each company saying, this is how they would attack it, this company would say, this is how we would do it. We can take a look at all those and I think that his expertise will come

in handy, at describing to us what we're seeing in terms of the technical aspect of this slide. But I don't know. And I mean, it is the decision of the board as to what we decide to do. But I was just thinking, as I'm watching the progress, as we're going forward at the last buildings and grounds meeting, I would like to see more designs that would be presented to us to make a choice from as to which one we would like to see go forward and then once we have this, then we can engaged with that particular company, then they're going to be details about that contractor that we may or may not understand, but I think his expertise will be helpful there. But that's just my feedback. And so, you know, I'd like to hear if there are people who would like to just go with the design we currently have, we should say that but if not, you know or whatever, but I would just like to have feedback from the board on what you guys think.

Mr. Mays If we go out for bids, then that kind of moves him out of the equation.

Mr. Latimer No, he represents the library to make sure that we can meet the specifications, that we send to the companies and to help us go through the bids and also through the construction process as well to make sure everything is not on board. So he works for the library's best interest of the East Cleveland Public Library.

Mr. Mays And what other services does he provide that...

Mr. Silvera ...Point of order. Can we have that discussion in the Buildings and Grounds report?

Mr. Rashid Yeah, I agree with that. Yeah, we'll save that for the Buildings and Grounds report. So that concludes my President's Report today. Any other feedback, we'll discuss when we get back into the Buildings and Grounds meeting. Perhaps that's when we'll talk more about it, if there are other opinions as to how we should proceed through this. But I'm just sharing my thoughts based on my attendance at the last Buildings and Grounds meetings. But that concludes my report. Next item on the agenda is the Director's report. Mr. Latimer.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rashid The next item on the agenda is the Director's report. Mr. Latimer.

Mr. Latimer

Thank you, Mr. President. Library activities continue to move back to normal each day, and our patrons, they are following safety protocols. The state report was submitted before the February 26th deadline. Kudos to Mr. Cockfield and Ms. Flood for collecting the data and our team for getting that information submitted. The vaccine registration program in partnership with NOAH and the Cleveland Foundation's rapid response fund was paused because of the problems with the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. To date, I have not heard any other information on how are we going to move forward? The East Cleveland Public Library was notified on April 4th, 2020; being a passport acceptance agent for the U.S. Department of State Passport Services, now we offer expedited services, which means a patron can apply for expedited services and receive their passport in four to six weeks. Early Literacy preschool kits for preschool educators, we now offer, and I have some fliers set up to share out to the community, friends from the funds to help support this initiative. Each preschool classroom will receive this kit, which is 25 picture books and more books, one big book and a CD. Also, we did receive, as the President mentioned earlier, a donation from Matthew 25 Ministries. It is 20 pallets. We'll be working in the next couple of weeks to box those items up and we have not set a date for the delivery to the public. However, we will get you that request for the list of charitable organizations. For the boxes we'll be setting aside for the board members for their outreach. Also, this is a message from Ohio Library Council in regards to House Bill 110. The Public Library fund percentage could be reduced from 1.7 the general revenue fund to 1.66. This is the general conversation among the general assembly in regards to money that's in the American rescue plan. This comment was to the general assembly. Let me be clear, Ohio public libraries are not receiving \$170 million in federal funding through the American rescue plan, instead about \$200 million will go to libraries nationwide through the Federal Institute of Museum and Library Services items are less of that amount, the State Library of Ohio will receive an estimated of only \$4.5 million dollars divided among all of the university libraries to K to 12 school libraries and 200 some odd public libraries in Ohio. Also even though public libraries are separate political subdivisions in the state of Ohio, we are not eligible and we are not receiving the billions of dollars that other local government units will be receiving directly through the American rescue plan. That information was shared to the general assembly. And that concludes the Director's Report.

Mr. Mays

I move to accept the Director's report. I have a question. Where does the East Cleveland library fall in all of this?

Mr. Latimer

Well, we are a part of the Ohio Library Council and we cannot directly go after the Cares Act money or the American Rescue Plan. So when

those funds are distributed at the state level, then sorted out to the library level we don't know what percentage of that we will get. Thank you.

Mr. Mays I moved that we accept the Director's report.

Mr. Rashid Do we have a second?

Mr. Silvera Second.

Mr. Rashid It's been motion to second. Mr. Turner, would you please call for the vote?

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

The Director's report is approved.

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

Mr. Rashid Six yeses. The Director's report has been accepted. The next item on the agenda is the Fiscal Officer's report. Mr. Cockfield.

Mr. Cockfield Thank you. This is for the financial period ending March 2021. Reconciled cash balances as of March 31, were one day \$1,483,010.43. Through the first quarter of the year, general fund operations are running at 24.4% budget. There are some line items that exhibited higher than budgeted spending for the first quarter but I do to front loading the expenditures to have supplies on hand.

Unemployment benefits expense, which is also showing higher the expected spending, is comprised of payment from 2020, which was budgeted for while also representing a billing procedure by ODJFS (Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services). It causes reimbursing employers to pay charges, which are anticipated and not necessarily billed. While our year-to-date expense appears higher, we are carrying a credit balance with the department. Also, library spending takes place during the first few quarters of the year. As such, if during the last quarter, there comes a need to realign our appropriations, a budget adjustment will be requested. The library received a \$100 donation through our website during the month of March. After the PayPal fee, we reported positive \$96.80. We received five separate donations in April, totaling \$225.00, which after fees was \$216.96. Our tax budget for 2022 has been received and passed through a resolution by the East Cleveland School Board and the budgets have been submitted to the budget commission as required. We've received notification that PLF revenues are up for the month of April, to quote from OCLC email. The Ohio Department of Taxation (ODT) posted the April 2021 Public Library Fund (PLF) distribution of \$28,458,737 which is \$5.6 million (that's up 24.45%) above ODT's original estimate that was issued in July 2020 and \$2.4 million (that's up 9.17%) more than ODT is updated estimate issued in December 2020. State revenues continue their trend exceeding projections. According to the Office of Budget Management, overall state tax receipts for the month of March came in at \$41.3 million (that's up 2.6%) above estimates. So far state fiscal year 2021 tax collections are up \$763.4 million (that's up 4.3%) above estimates. PLF revenues through three months are running ahead of budget. RP revenues from three months are running out of budget and 29.33.6%. I've attached to the history of state funding for Ohio public libraries for your review, which is attached to the Fiscal Officer's report that was submitted. That concludes my report.

Mr. Mays

Mr. Cockfield can you tell me why we received \$225 which after fees, why did we only receive \$216?

Mr. Cockfield

PayPal, it charges a collection fee. And they take that fee off the top and submit to you what was left. That's how they make their money.

Mr. Mays

So anytime we're receiving money from any entity or whatever, it goes through them. They accepted it and then it come back to us?

Mr. Cockfield

Yeah, what happens is that the donation goes to PayPal, I received notification that we've received a donation, I go to the PayPal website, authorize them to submit it to our bank account. They take their fee, and we received the rest.

Mr. Rashid Now, that doesn't apply to people who just walk in and give us a check.

Mr. Silvera Yes, this is just through the website.

Mr. Mays Okay.

Mr. Cockfield Did you understand what I was saying?

Mr. Mays Yes, but I just I'm kind of troubled by it. Is that something we have hired. Is that the process in which it has to...?

Mr. Cockfield ...That's how PayPal makes its money. They collect a fee from the donation.

Mr. Rashid And in turn, what they do for us is allow people anywhere on the planet that has access to PayPal to donate to us if they want to.

Mr. Latimer Yeah, people trust PayPal.

Mr. Mays Now, you said on the second page, revenue through the 3-months is running ahead of budget at 29.336%. Is that high? Or is that within the numbers?

Mr. Cockfield I mean, ahead of budget if we were on budget and within 25%. So we actually received 29.33.6% of our revenue through three months. As opposed to 25% of our revenue. 25% of our budget revenue, we've received 29% of our budgeted revenue.

Mr. Silvera Mr. President, I move that we accept the Fiscal Officer's report.

Mr. Rashid It's been moved. Do I have a second?

Ms. Shaheed Second.

Mr. Rashid It's been moved and second. Is there any further discussion? Mr. Turner, would you please call for the vote?

Discussion: None

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. Shaheed approval of the Fiscal Officer's report.

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.

The Fiscal Officer's report is approved.

IX. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Rashid Six yeses. The Fiscal Officer's report has been approved. Next item on the agenda is committee updates, starting with the Finance committee report.

A. Finance Committee Report (Chairperson)

Mr. Silvera Mr. Chairman, the Finance Committee did meet on Thursday, April 8th in person. Our Board member Ms. McDonald wasn't able to attend in person, but she joined us through a conference call so we could have our meeting. Basically went through all that Mr. Cockfield expounded on. So in essence, financially were in a good place and our spending is normal. So there's really no other issues that we want to bring to the Board at this point. So that concludes the Finance Committee report.

B. Personnel Committee Report (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid Okay. Next committee item is Personnel Committee update.

Ms. Shaheed The Personnel Committee did not meet this month.

C. Buildings and Grounds Committee Update (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid Okay. Next item is the Building and Grounds Committee update.

Mr. Mays Buildings and Grounds met also on Thursday April 8th at 1pm 2021. As the president articulated earlier in his report, in reference to the marquee, he has some trepidation in reference to the size and height of what was presented. I just hope that we can move forward and get the marquee because it will play a pivotal role in this library. And I agree with him on in that we don't want something that's going to take away from the aesthetics of the building itself, even though it's a historical building and we would like to stay within that frame. We also discussed that the carpet will be installed, I guess in the main portion of the library by the 28th as well as the roof, I believe they have identified a roof to contract to take care of the roof portion that is leaking. Oh, thank you. Yes, there was a discussion in reference to the Copy center. I'm going to yield to Mr. Latimer as to the time frame, because they will be renting.

Mr. Latimer That is correct. We're going to lease the copy print equipment in the next Board meeting and the next Buildings and Grounds meeting, we'll have a clean timeline of where we are on all the projects. But the first project would be the roof, the flat roof to start the projects. We'll have those dates as soon as we get the start date of the contractors for the roof.

Mr. Mays Mr. President, did you have any other?

Mr. Rashid No, Mr. Cooper actually attended our Buildings and Grounds meeting, which is really helpful when he comes like that, because he is the person closest to these projects. And he did say that the first process was to make sure that the roof was secure before we start moving on to the rest of the thing, so I guess what we can report is that things are progressing, and we seem to be on schedule. So that's pretty much all I have.

Mr. Mays And they would remove the air conditioner.

Mr. Rashid Oh, yeah, the condenser. They had to remove that in order to repair the roof. And then they would put it back with a giant crane.

Mr. Mays Major Harrison also met with us. And that's where the President was articulating the problems that we encountered at that time. Hopefully, as I said, I hope that we can get this marquee in place and up and operational so the public can see just what's going on what's

happening behind these four walls. If the President doesn't have any other comments in reference to that...

Mr. Rashid

...The only thing I would like to add is that I just want to encourage all of the board members to give input about this marquee, because this is a major step for us. And if you do have an opportunity to take a look at the other libraries around, then I think it can give us some additional insight on how we can approach updating our facility because I think the institution just deserves that from us. That's pretty much all I have. Yeah, I drove by South Euclid, Beachwood, Cleveland Heights are the three that I see on a regular basis and Shaker Heights, just upgraded their library's entrance. And it's really nice when you go in and it's an older building as well. So no, but the other three have pretty large signs that are visible. And you know, I thought about those first because, you know, you can look at the location of the sign, the size of the sign and the information that they're displaying on the sign. You know, I'm thinking and hoping that we are able to accomplish a design for the front of the building that incorporates the artistic side of the building and the fact that it is a historical building. You know, we want to make sure that as we embark on this venture the upgrade to facility that it looks appropriate. And that has to be decided by everybody in this room.

Mr. Mays

...And also it's in the archives, old portion. I don't know whether this new portion makes a difference or detracts from the portion that's historical. And as the old person it is in the archives in Washington, DC. I observed it and met with historians in Washington DC in reference to this library and also buildings in the city.

Ms. Shaheed

Did the East Cleveland Public Library ever have a marquee before?

Mr. Mays

No.

Mr. Rashid

Except the one that's out there now?

Mr. Mays

No, it never had a marquee.

Mr. Latimer

You don't consider the one out there now a marquee?

Mr. Mays

Not really. That is just sign.

Mr. Rashid

I understand what you're saying. What you just said is really, even to me, more of a reason for us to take the cautious approach to this to doing this right, because it is a historical building. And we are the people that are ultimately responsible for how this process takes place and how it looks at the end of the day.

Mr. Mays Okay, so if there's nothing else in reference, no questions in regards to Buildings and Grounds that concludes our report.

D. Library Services Committee Update (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid That concludes Buildings and Grounds. Library Services update will be next on the agenda.

Dr. Harris Library Services has no report and there was no meeting. Thank you.

Mr. Rashid Thank you, we'll move on to the next item on their agenda. That's the Ad Hoc Committee update.

E. Ad Hoc Committee Update (Chairperson)

Mr. Silvera The Ad Hoc Committee has not met, but I do have some comments that I do want to make. We have not seen a response back from the city based on the letter that was sent out. I am recommending that we send out another communication, a second request for verification of the status of the application process for the property behind the library and to include city Law Director in that communication as well as the library's legal counsel in that communication. And if we don't get a response we'll talk about taking further action.

Mr. Mays Whom are you reaching out to?

Mr. Silvera The offices of the coordinator for the land bank.

Mr. Mays You don't want to include the Mayor as well as City Council?

Mr. Silvera Initially, we want to send it to Ms. Wallace since she is the point person for the program.

Mr. Latimer I believe. we copied the council president.

Mr. Silvera I'm suggesting that we c.c. Mayor and the Law Director in making this a second request for information for verification,

Mr. Mays Because that person was under the auspices of the administration which is the Mayor, I think it should go to the mayor. That's my suggestion. She may be in that department, but he still goes to the Mayor. He will funnel it to the to the that person over that department if it goes there, but it should rest with administration and council to determine those factors, because there has been some action in reference to that property. And so that's why I was saying, just to making a suggestion.

Mr. Silvera But I will also make this point, because there is a potential conflict of interest with the Mayor in terms of that property. That's why I thought it was prudent to reach out to Ms. Wallace as the person in administration to deal with responsibility for overseeing the program, so that's why I directed it to her. I understand your point, but at the same time a c.c. of the communication

Mr. Silvera I think it appropriate for the person responsible for the day to day oversight of that program.

Mr. Mays Please hear me, one is the fact that it puts him on the spot, first of all, he is the Mayor, it puts him on the spot, because any elected official, as far as Council, as well as the Mayor, to be involved in property that's in the land bank. First of all, so you want to put him on the spot. The council does not know that as well, that it first should be put out to the public to act on and not council or administration or the Mayor to act on property, because they see it first. And that is the law. It's that they cannot act on it they must, put it out in public. If no one responds to the property in the land bank, then they can take a chance. That's the way it operates.

Mr. Rashid Alright, in the interest of time as well, as I just want to make my comments about that is that we should respect the office and just send him a copy of it too. The letter could be addressed exactly who you sent to, to but just send a copy of that, to him, our attorney and to the law director, because I'm thinking that at some point, we have to decide to make a new application, if we don't get any feedback from them that appropriately addresses the things that have happened in the past, which I was reluctant to go down this road and be in the beginning, but I wanted to support your insight because you had actual experience in working with this. But if we find that we are not getting the appropriate response, I was suggesting that our next step is should be to make a brand new application in 2021. And then let the process play out from there. So after having said that, we'll send the second letter, as you said, to follow up and then we'll see what happens then. Okay. So does that conclude your update. Okay, thank you very much. The next item on the agenda is new business.

X. NEW BUSINESS

- Mr. Latimer** This is just an update from the Strategic Planning Committee, although it was not scheduled. You can go on to East Cleveland Public Library website and see an update around our strategic plan thanks to Ms. A'sarah Green. She did a really good job on that.
- Mr. Rashid** I want to also support that I actually saw it saw the publishing of it on YouTube and I thought it was very well done and very tastefully done. Is there any other comments?
- Mr. Mays** I brought up the discussion in the last board meeting in reference to sponsoring all resolutions that passed should have a sponsor. And to my surprise I got a text from the Director, he had done his research and found that I was correct and should have a sponsor on all the resolutions passed. So I just wanted to bring that up in new business. And I hope from this point forward, we will have sponsors on every resolution that we pass. Because as I said at that time, it's just a piece of paper that you're giving someone, they'll say, well, who sponsored in the Buildings and Grounds committee? So I'm not going to articulate that. I just like you to know that what I said has been corrected. And I thank you for investigating that.
- Mr. Latimer** I need a decision from the board, East Cleveland Public Library was reached out to from Charlie Bibb to host the first 11th congressional district debate. We polled the board; there was a lot of hesitation and reservation in regards to us doing this. The biggest concern is managing
- Mr. Latimer** dignitaries that will come, although there'll be limited seating, but also safety and security issues. As we all experienced, we see in the news every day, a lot of big issues. Another issue is the infrastructure in East Cleveland, the traffic flow. And also, we will need support from additional security to help manage this, which I don't believe we will get the support from the East Cleveland Police Department or the up support of the board with respect to Mr. Charlie Bibb.
- Mr. Latimer** I would like to respectfully, from information I have with board members, decline this request, but I want to put it on the table.

Mr. Silvera I have a question. First question will this be a partisan debate for a Democratic or Republican candidate? That's the first question. Second question would be given the condition of Euclid Avenue and the paving going on, will that also being in conflict in terms of logistics in terms of getting people in and out?

Mr. Latimer The second question I'll start with, that date is May 22nd, so I'm not sure of the timeline when the street project will be complete, however, that will be a challenge. The first question I asked him was this going to be a part of the Democratic club. He said, No, it was a Charlie Bid production. So we don't have an organization sponsoring this, but an individual.

Ms. Shaheed Yet no organizational backup?

Mr. Latimer No. My question to him was, will he have a commitment from all six candidates? He said that his team will work on that. He just needed to secure a location.

Mr. Latimer I had conversations with some of my colleagues in the library world, about potentially hosting something like this and they said, definitely get a news organization to back this, and also to provide some financial support for technical support as well as security. I believe that Dr. Harris had some concerns and reservations as well.

Dr. Harris here. Basically, we need to leave that alone. It's in the interest of everyone here.

Mr. Mays I would take some exception with the fact that we allow other entities to come in either with their meetings or whatever here. Their candidates have been given opportunities as well. I attended the one of the symposium that they have on debates in Cleveland, and all of those candidates were there. And we had the candidates, and I don't know whether this was a Democratic seat. I don't know whether the candidates there were Democrats or Republicans, but it is a Democratic seat. And I think going back to give a little history...

Mr. Rashid ...Please don't go too far back.

Group (Laughter)

Mr. Mays Louis Stokes fought hard to get some black representation. So that's why it is a Democratic seat. ...Two Democratic seats, and in now it extends all the way to Akron. So it was pretty well attended. But I think we have the facility here to accommodate that, which would be the main auditorium. And then since we are in this is our district. And I think it would be incumbent upon us if we have the facility to

accommodate this where as we can come and see and hear the candidates that's running for the seat. So I don't want to deprive East Cleveland, because East Cleveland plays a pivotal role, as well, to the seat, whether they're Democrats, Republicans, or independents, or whatever. That gives them an opportunity to hear the candidates and an opportunity, not only to hear them, or be able to vote for people of their choice. So it's not a Charlie Bibbs or whomever. So, I have some trepidation. But I doubt there seriously would be that many people here in first place. And I think I heard somewhere around 50, we had more than 50. But they must, everyone candidates as well, must be wearing masks and they have to go through... That's what we went through and I was then cleared. They take your temperature as well. I know we do it here.

Ms. Shaheed Is this one particular party trying to figure out who's going to the primaries? Is that what we are talking about?

Mr. Rashid Pretty much. That's what it seems as if.

Mr. Silvera If you're going to do something like that, make it open to everyone.

Ms. Shaheed So the candidates that are coming here will represent both parties or just one?

Mr. Rashid And basically, that's what they were asking us. But there are details to us accepting a date like that. And I think that those are the things that we have to make sure that we work out and that we have decided that we want to move forward. But to work the details out first, before we commit to having something like this here. Because we don't want it to end up being a debacle because of the logistics of the technology that's involved because I think that you would have to broadcast this thing some kind of way. It's just a number of different things that we would have to be responsible for if we say yes this without having all the details. There's going to be costs involved with it.

Mr. Mays What I need to say, is we don't have to do anything. Well, we just provide the facility.

Mr. Latimer He doesn't have a capacity or the staff, to do the work here, he needs the facility, he needs our technical support, he needs security, and you need some logistics through the parking lot. He doesn't have a team to manage the project. He just has a team to book the candidates and control the actual debate, we have to do the technical support, we have to provide the security, we have to secure the parking lot, we have to manage the crowd that comes in.

Mr. Rashid Can we table this until we get more information or do you need a vote or some a response from...

Mr. Latimer ...I need response, because he has a date set at May 22nd.

Mr. Mays Why do we have to provide secure to people coming in to me...

Mr. Latimer Because he doesn't have a supporting organization, this is a Charlie Bibb production.

Mr. Mays When we were at the debate in Cleveland, we didn't have any security there. And you have people coming in here to hear the candidates.

Mr. Rashid We have to have security just for the protection of our library.

Mr. Mays Yeah, I mean, I understand that.

Mr. Rashid Who's going to set up for all this? I mean, what he's saying is, if we if we said yes, then we would be responsible for doing everything.

Ms. Shaheed Are we going to pay for this as well?

Mr. Latimer This is him, because he wants to bring this to East Cleveland. He's just bringing the candidates; everything else falls on the East Cleveland Public Library.

Mr. Silvera What would be the budget impact of something like this, general cost and man hours?

Mr. Latimer I don't have those numbers for one of the services will be the video audio, which I want to outsource that, because that needs a high level production. So there's a cost with that. There'll be a cost with this happening during our regular library hours. So we would need some kind of security to assist us while we're doing our regular day-to-day operations, but also to watch the parking lot, and also other security. I don't think there would be any other costs other than technical support and additional security.

Mr. Mays I'm having some trepidation here. I don't care who this is, what we do for one, we should do for all. If we're going to set up these kind of policies and we have not. If he has to provide all of this, all of that, and pay for security. Then I think everyone else who uses this library must do the same.

Mr. Rashid So I guess what we're basically getting to is to determine if we want to take on the responsibility of holding this debate in our library. In our city of East Cleveland on May the 22th in whatever comes with it.

Mr. Silvera Do we have anything in writing?

Mr. Latimer No. It's not that detailed, which is red flags to me as well.

Mr. Rashid I'm going to defer to the leadership of our Director who would actually be the one responsible for pulling all this together. And if your recommendation to us is that at this time we, I mean, well, you can speak for yourself and just 10 whatever your recommendation is,

Mr. Latimer I'm comfortable making a decision. However, I wanted to put it on the table, I can meet with my team to have another conversation with Mr. Bibb. And we can see if this is realistic for us if it's safe, and we have the talent to do it, we'll move forward.

Mr. Silvera I would like to see something in writing from him outlining as much detail as possible to get a better clarity. You have to lock him down on paper because things get lost in conversation. I would love to see something in writing as a part of that conversation.

(Dr. Harris leaves the meeting at 3:06PM)

Mr. Rashid Okay, does that conclude new business?

Mr. Mays You know, if we're going to nitpick, and we make these the norms, set it up for everyone that utilizes this specific facility. Not picking and choosing. It's my understanding that he wants to use the library for a debate of the candidates. We have an opportunity to expose the residents of East Cleveland to the candidates that want to replace Marcia Fudge, which is our congresswoman. And we should have that opportunity to do this.

Mr. Rashid I don't think anybody is debating that?

Mr. Mays The city center is not available, it's under construction. We just discussed that a couple of weeks ago. If we're going to do things for one, let's do it all. If we go into it, of course, other people have come to this library and utilized this library. The Democratic Party, which was alluded to earlier, the Democratic Party has been in right down here. The candidates running, whether they're Republican or Democrat, I know they all must be present that will be running as

White, Black and whatever at the debate that I attended in Cleveland. If Mr. Bibbs or whomever wants to bring it here for the citizen of this community, and it's in our district, and it's our congressperson, we have a right to vote, and he's bringing them here for the people here in the city to be exposed to the candidates and make a decision when they go to the polls to vote.... I'm for that.

Mr. Rashid

And I think what we're doing now is going through the same evaluation process with Mr. Bibbs as we would anyone else who approached the library to utilize our facility for any given purpose and that's where we stand.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Rashid

That concludes new business. Next item on the agenda will be old business? ...Hearing none, we can move to audience participation.

XII. AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Turner

As of now we have no audience participation.

Mr. Rashid

No audience participation. Next item on the agenda is to move for adjournment.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mays

Mr. Chairman, I motion for adjournment.

Mr. Silvera

I second.

Mr. Rashid

It's been moved the second. Mr. Turner, would you please call for the vote?

Discussion: None

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

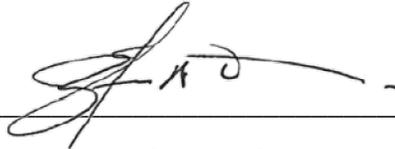
Yes – 5

Motion passes.

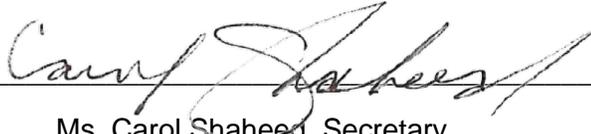
[Meeting is adjourned at 3:16 PM]

Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Silvera seconds adjournment.

Adjournment is approved.



Mr. Zakee Rashid, President



Ms. Carol Shaheed, Secretary