

East Cleveland Public Library
Regular Board of Library Trustees Meeting
Saturday, August 21, 2021
14101 Euclid Ave., East Cleveland, Ohio 44112
Lower Auditorium 2:00pm

MP3
RBOT20210821

Mr. Rashid called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

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

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

A quorum exists. Present – 7

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

Audience: Dr. Mary Rice

II. **LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING**

(Everyone is invited to sing.)

III. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Mr. Rashid The next item on our agenda is the approval of the agenda.

Mr. Silvera I make the motion to accept the agenda as written.

Dr. Harris Second, Dr. Harris.

Mr. Rashid Second by Dr. Harris. Mr. Turner please call 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), Ms. McDonald (yes)

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved, and Dr. Harris seconds the approval of the agenda.

The agenda is approved.

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION: TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL ITEMS.

Mr. Rashid We have seven yeses. Can I get a motion to go into executive session so that we can discussion personnel matters?

Mr. Mays I move that we go into executive session to discuss personnel matters.

Dr. Harris Second, Dr. Harris.

Mr. Rashid It's been motioned and second Mr. Turner will you please call the roll?

Discussion: None

Mr. Mays moved and Dr. Harris seconds going into executive session.

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Meeting goes into executive session.

(Meeting goes into Executive Session at 2:05pm)

Mr. Mays I motion that we come out of executive session.

Mr. Silvera Second.

Mr. Rashid Mr. Turner call the roll.

Discussion: None

Mr. Mays moved and Mr. Silvera seconds coming out of executive session.

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

(Meeting comes out of Executive Session at 2:53pm)

Meeting comes out of executive session.

V. APPROVAL OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES FROM JUNE 19, 2021.

Mr. Rashid Seven yeses. We're back. The next item on the agenda is the approval of the regular board meeting minutes from June 19th, 2021. Is there a motion to approve the regular board meeting minutes?

Mr. Silvera Mr. Chairman , I move that we accept the regular board meeting minutes from June 19th, 2021.

Ms. Shaheed Second.

Mr. Rashid We have a motion and a second, is there any discussion? Hearing none, Mr. Turner will 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), Ms. McDonald (yes)

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved and Ms. Shaheed seconds adopting the minutes for 06/19/2021.

Minutes from 06/19/2021 are approved.

VI. COMMUNICATIONS.

Mr. Rashid We have seven yeses, the regular board meeting minutes from June 19th, 2021 have been approved. The next item on the agenda is communications, the discussion for mail handling procedures.

Mr. Latimer There was a memo that went out to staff to reinforce the process of mail handling, this will also be implemented into the staff policy manual. This memo from our Deputy Director, Ms. Flood was sent out on August 18th, 2021. Two designated staff members Mr. Turner and Ms. Love will handle the management of mail at the East Cleveland Public Library. It is important that mail be well managed and the appropriate person and / or departments receives their mail promptly.

We receive mail and packages from three carriers, which are: United States Postal Services, United Parcel Services, and Federal Express. USPS mail should be retrieved and placed by the staff mailbox and a phone call placed to Ms. Love or Mr. Turner. If any packages needing a signature, please contact Mr. Turner or Ms. Love to sign for the packages. In his or her absence, please contact someone in Administration. If you have questions, please contact the Deputy Director. this will be part of the internal control once we get out.

Mr. Mays ...It is important that mail be well managed. I don't quite understand as to how they are going to manage it, who will be receiving the mail as it comes into the building?

Mr. Latimer The mail comes in through the circulation desk, and there will be a box for a delivery box at the front desk. So, nothing changes with that. However, the mail that comes from the United States Postal Services and parcel FedEx, a lot of times they try to catch a staff member at the garage door, or any other place outside the building. They will be directed to the circulation desk where any packages and any mail will be received in those spaces, whoever receives it at the circulation desk, because we don't know what their coming in. Mr. Turner and Ms. Love are the only ones to receive that mail once it is set aside for them. ...Once it's received at the circulation desk.

Mr. Mays Is there any particular person at the circulation desk? No, because it's different people scheduled throughout the day. But we have no scheduled time when mail is delivered.

Mr. Rashid So instead of designating one person because they may come in the morning or late in the evening. ...So, you follow the process regardless of who is sitting there.

Mr. Mays So, the process that you have in place, whoever received that mail, will note, and record the time.

Mr. Latimer That's an extra step, however, I'll talk to Ms. Flood to work out the details.

Dr. Harris What about, say like, a person comes in and wants to leave their dues for the Friends or something like that? Can the desk take on envelope with a check?

Mr. Latimer We do have mailboxes at the desk and the Friends do have a mailbox.

Dr. Harris So, we will give it to the person behind the counter and they will put it in the Friends' mailbox?

Mr. Latimer Correct.

Dr. Harris Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Rashid Do we time stamp that?

Mr. Latimer No.

Ms. McDonald If they are making donations, and it's a box there, why can't they just be directed to the box? Because when you said somebody would receive it and put it in a box. But if it's already a box to keep the staff from handling finances, let them put it into the box. And for the packages, it should be a sign-in, so that way if something happens we can see who signed it in and track it better.

Mr. Latimer We can keep a clipboard at the desk, that doesn't seem that difficult to do. We'll make adjustments to the handling of that. Thank you that concludes communication.

VII. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Rashid Moving forward, the next item on the agenda is the President's report. I went to the National Underground Railroad Museum, and it was overwhelming, there is a lot of information in there. Looking at it from the perspective of what we want to do as we expand. Also, one of the things we talk about is that I'm tired of hearing about the chapter of our journey, the slavery part of it. What happened in a 60's? Where are we going now? And so, as we move forward to make decisions about our expansion, I would like to put my personal view along with everybody else to decide how we do this. But I would like to spend the briefest amount of time on slavery and go to how we transformed ourselves from the 60s to how we got to this mess that we're in now. Because the 60s was a wonderful time for us, we were wearing dashikis and we went back to trying to find our natural roots in the 70s, who we are as a people and then something happened, something that drastically changed because it seemed like it happened all across the country. Because look for dashikis now and natural hairdos. I mean, now we're starting to kind of get back to it, but it's not like it was in the 60s and 70s. And I guess it's by no accident. That's the same time that the government really started overtly attacking us. So, as we move to expand the library, those are the kind

of things I would like for us to be engaged in dialogue about and to come to a decision as to how we want to move forward. So, to me, it was a very worthwhile trip.

Mr. Rashid

The next thing is the mayoral forum, we all know what happened with the power and the logistics of this just wouldn't make sense. And I don't know if we need to reschedule it or leave it alone, but

Mr. Silvera

I think my recommendation would be to forego mayoral forum due to the political games that are being played now this has been kind of dirty. I think maybe we should focus on city council and on a number of council candidates running and I think we'd probably much better serve the community by focusing on council members.

Mr. Mays

I agree in part. But I think that the people need to know just what this administration is doing, but I think that we do need to reschedule it and see whether they come, and then we have something to hold against them. You did not reschedule the meeting for the mayoral candidates, and they did not attend. So why would we put somebody in office that will totally disrespect the public? But I do feel that we should have the forum. Having said that, there is something that I take some exception to in reference to. History is a true written record. If we do not remember our past we're bound to repeat it. So let me just take a minute and say this, on Wednesday, the candidate symposium at Starlight Baptist church, along with the director. Mr. Latimer was there. When our state board member spoke, she spoke in reference to the senate house bill... in reference to our history and not to teach Black history in the schools. These children are our future. What our forefathers went through, they got hung, they shed blood for us to be here today. And now, they're trying to pass a law not to teach Black history in schools. That doesn't make sense to me. I got up and spoke on it, and I'm speaking here. If we do not teach our history. It fades away.

Mr. Mays

People need to know what happened and our youngsters, whom we will be dependent on tomorrow, they are dependent on us today. They will ask "What did you do when this came up?". So, I'm standing here now. We need to get up off our posteriors and flood those folks down there in Columbus, that you're not going to do this, we put you in office and we will take you out of office. You cannot listen to us and that's what you want to do? Everything should be taught, whatever happened, this is US history. Let the record reflect O. Mays has spoken.

Ms. Shaheed

Because I've taught Black history for years, basically, a high school of any value, their focus is about what is taught in college. Okay, so they can pass whatever. When I was hired, I was hired to teach Black

history. Because Black history was mandatory in college. So, a lot of times they're driven. They want their kids prepared for the future. And Black history because of the 60s and that was in place. So, a lot of things are driven based on what the college wants. Once the college has made it clear what they want these kids to have, then the other schools, they fall in line because they want their kids prepared. They have black history in Shaker, but you have to take a test in order to take the class. So, they have it there, but they have these obstacles in order for kids not to take Black history. So that's the thing we have to deal with things like that, but that you cannot say in any place you cannot teach be sustainable. And I'm just saying if you have a local school system, and you have a community that community decides the curriculum, because I wrote curriculum. Okay, so a lot of it has to do with the community, if they demand it they're going to have it, you know, and the state, if they say, we're not going to give you money, they're not going to do that. Because there's a problem. Now you have people in Parma, they can say all kinds of stuff. But when you have a community with as many black people, and also, as I said before, they're driven a great deal by what colleges demand for people to come in there. And it's almost hard to say any college nowadays that you could be there and not take some type of Black history class. That's unheard of now, am I right or wrong?

Mr. Latimer

The woman from the state, she shared with us, and this is critical, that we're not aware that there is a bill to stop Black history in school districts across the state. Yes, teachers can potentially lose classes if they teach Black history.

Ms. Shaheed

This is an Ohio. Okay, that's going to be interesting to watch. Because basically, they were driven mainly by the colleges what they actually come. So, it's going to be interesting to see how can you do that in Ohio, when you have all these people here?

Ms. McDonald

So, this is what people are coining as canceled culture. That's what they're calling it. A lot of the times, how colleges are doing it, it is now considered an elective and not required curriculum, which kind of takes that, you know, what you were saying. When we look at this from a legislative standpoint, from the state level. We have our, communities like East Cleveland. But when you look at who's in office now in the senate, that's going to play a huge part as to what happens overall in our state and how this bill passes and so forth. Because it's majority, if not all, Republican sponsored, I believe correct? So that's going to be one of our harder issues. Now, when it comes to the East Cleveland library and our standalone and other things like that. I'm looking at it from... you know, how you try to stay ahead of the curve about what's coming. And we have this library here. So, what can we do in terms of curriculum? What can we do in terms of field trips?

What can we do in terms of things like that in case something happens, we can stand alone, and offer things here? So, to have another support system in case it doesn't pass. And this could be an initiative that is taken across the states to various libraries. And maybe we can be one of the libraries, starts a program like that, where we do field trips, or we do teachings, have different people come in and teach classes, and see if the, you know, whether it's the after-school program, or whatever, however, we decided if we decided to do it, but that's another way to combat what's happening. Because I'm really afraid of the election and how things are going. So, to be proactive, as a library and resources and finances that we have. And of course, land we're trying to get or buildings that something that we can start a course of our own action to keep this kind of thing going.

Mr. Rashid I think this one would be advantages, and a blessing that we have as being an independent library, because we're in full control. we're in control of where we go, and how we get there.

Ms. Shaheed I want to ask one question. If they are trying to cancel Black history are they trying to cancel women's history and all this other stuff is in place because there's more than Black history being taught in schools, but they have other minorities. But I know women's history that's actually taught elsewhere. Are they trying to make a move in that direction as well?

Mr. Mays I'm not cognizant of that. It only dealt with Black history being taught in the state of Ohio.

Ms. Shaheed They were talking about trying to bring about Asian history into the fold, as well as Native American history because they've been eliminated, especially the Chinese history, and what happened to them, they were moving in that direction, at one point, trying to include everybody.

Mr. Rashid The people that did all this crazy stuff, want us to stop talking about what they have done. In fact, that's what they're saying, we don't want to talk about what we did. It's up to us to find out where the information will best fit our intentions as an organization and how it best fits our institution and how we interface with the community that we serve. They can do what they want. ...We control what happens here.

Mr. Mays We are talking about the state of Ohio and so therefore, we have to not just be confined here. We must be become global over the state to educate others so we can stop this crap before it becomes law.

Mr. Rashid Good luck with that because Ohio is a Republican state, and you got to realize that there's a lot of Klu Klux Klan people, and they'll go ahead and smile, but you'll have to deal with them every single day in the city, in this state and throughout this country. So, there are certain things that we have an effect on and what can, we should and work as hard as you can. But we're fortunate in the sense that we can control this institution. So, they do whatever they want to do, and we'll work as hard as we can to try to have influence on what we should fight hardest to control is our own house. Because here we can make a difference and be the difference

Mr. Mays But we are under the auspices of the school board. And so, therefore, if they pass the law in the state of Ohio, not just East Cleveland, the state of Ohio. That's what I'm speaking of Black history not to being taught.

Mr. Rashid I understand what you're saying, they want to take this out of the curriculum. So, it can no longer be taught as part of the school curriculum. That's a blow. I mean, that is a hell of a blow to Black history and to Black people. But all I'm saying is that we can fight against it with all of our might and try to defeat it. But if for whatever reason, however it goes down, it will never stop us from doing our job to make sure that we do everything that we can do. We're independent.

Ms. Shaheed We didn't teach Black history until the 60's anyway. So Black people knew a lot of Black History before was actually put into schools. So, you know, each one teach one. They are doing a disservice to the kids, because they're not going to live their whole life in Ohio, they're going to go to other progressive states, and they won't fit in.

Mr. Rashid ...They'll look like fools, because they won't have any knowledge of us. By doing that, they're losing knowledge of themselves. So, they are in a no-win situation... They don't want their kids hearing that stuff about them, because they so craftily written history books prior, that danced over all these things and now you have three, four generations of White people walk around in America that have that candy land view of all these matters. Where, we've been the direct people affected by it have the stories, the scars, the bruises. We are the people who have been through it. So let them do whatever they've been doing since we've been here. But at least as an independent source library, we always do whatever we can to make sure that the true stories survives their BS.

Mr. Mays Let's face facts, they are not only doing that they are trying where we can't even vote. ...We'll be right back to where we were before.

- Mr. Rashid** If this is supposed to be a democracy, how could it even be legal for somebody to actually pass legislation so a member of this society cannot vote? How is that legal?
- Ms. McDonald** Can I please elaborate on this? I'm just going to be honest, the glamour, they came with Barack Obama and a lot of these other presidents, this phony issue has been here forever. And the fact of the matter is that there has not been enough initiative to make it a standing law where we don't have to keep revisiting the old "can we vote again?". Because there's a certain language in there that if we miss a certain day we will take out our ability to vote period, that little provision of time does within that law, it shouldn't be there, it should just be a sustained measure and it should be done. So, if you look at it, you have the state, the municipality, or whatever you have the ability to have your representatives make changes for you. The problem is, is the mobilization of people and mobilization of communities when these things come to pass because we are able to put our own ballot initiatives in place. But what does it take, and a lot of people don't even know that that's what you can do? A lot of people don't know what it takes to do that. In the state of Ohio, you can make a change by going to 10 counties and getting a percentage of each vote out of those counties to put a ballot measure in place for the state of Ohio to either redo or do something that the state did not do. So, there are things but when it comes to us collaboratively where's the soldiers? Where's the soldiers?
- Mr. Mays** The problem is this, it's not only just the state of Ohio, but also the 50 states that are in the process of trying to make it difficult for us to vote. We're going back to those days when you had to say how many bubbles are in a bar soap and how many marbles on the jar and all those kinds of things. We have to get up off of our posteriors and fight.
- Mr. Rashid** I need to bring the meeting back to the subject.
- Mr. Latimer** To what Mr. Mays was saying, at that community meeting we found out that our children can't read, and they want to take Black history out of the curriculum and East Cleveland voter participation was only 17%. We are going back to slavery. Those are both things that came out of our community meeting.
- Ms. Sharpley** When we voted at the last election, ...voters looked at my son and said, "I can't believe that you are the youngest voter we had voting today". ...He's 19. This is not a priority, with our kids to become registered to vote. Not many in the city that they live in make it important for them. That's something that we don't do. But by the same token, when you are in Cleveland Heights district, you know, you've seen the Jewish people there, they learn about their history,

they're taught about management, it's important because everything that they do from the time they wake up to the time they go to bed, their history and what happened, and how they are as a people is taught. They separate themselves so that they don't get mixed all into today's society. that's something that we don't do as people, you know, we don't teach our own children about ourselves. we don't even teach them don't even know we have our own national anthem. And that comes from just being in a house in a home. When I grew up, over here on Paydon Avenue, there was a little white, Irish man that taught me about being Black. He made us learn to "Lift Every Voice and Sing". We have singing competitions, based on who sung it the best, he broke us down to African tribes, and we had to study about Africa, and who we are, Malcolm X, and all that other stuff, because it wasn't taught, and the irony is that it was taught by a little, old, white, Irish man. But you know, that's the difference between us being a community and being at the library, we have a prime opportunity to make sure that in our community you can find it here. In Ms. Shaheed's class, one of the things that we did in the classroom was the cultural differences between what Caucasians thought about us and vice versa. So, we had classes from other schools and East Cleveland would go out. All day long, they walk through the schools, to interact with people that were predominantly the "other". In Ms. Shaheed's class she created a safe environment for the White kids to ask about weird things that they thought, like, does your color rub off, you know, you really think that we have tails?, you know, all this other stuff, but that's what they were taught. So, you know, that was something that created a learning experience for them the same way we sat there, and I found out that, it was you that she brought into the classroom that was talking about what East Cleveland cable was first formed and that it was successful Black men that came in and brought something to the city and that was the first time that East Cleveland had cable.

Mr. Rashid

I want to read my report into the record office as of August 21st. The East Cleveland Public Library as an institution is working hard with the reshape and redefine the whole of our independent library. Our purpose is to be a positive contributing member of the East Cleveland community. We are an institution where you come to the library seeking information on any subject on the planet. It's our job to help you find it and we will. Arts entertainment and information is a part of our mission statement. Among the list of services and programs we offer to the community include computer labs and classes for those of children. Passport services are available here at East Cleveland Public Library, you can renew or apply for your passport here. We are currently in construction of a new print and copy center like a little Kinkos here inside the library. This will allow you to do your printing and copying as well as offer instructional publishing assistance right

here in the city of East Cleveland. Today's event the book bag and supplies giveaway by the First Baptist Church of Greater Cleveland, Senior Pastor Gregg Burris. I want to thank him for that. I think it was successful. I understand 200 children actually received book bags today. Senior movie Wednesdays we're back in August in the Lower Auditorium. I believe we have one more movie coming up this week. The chess program is also coming back in September, you can join us here at the library for some challenging games that will be here on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:00pm - 6:00pm. And a collaboration with the Tri-C Jazz Festival presents the Sean Jones Quartet on Sunday, September the 19th at 4:00pm in the Greg L. Reese Performing Arts Center. I am urging as many members as possible of the Board who want to attend to make sure you arrive early due to limited seating the doors open at 3:00pm, and to the public that's listening on online, you can call the library if you need more information about the dates and times. I want to shout out many thanks to the Cleveland Foundation, and the George Gund Foundation for making this concert series possible. The East Cleveland Public Library has a critical role that they play in the growth of our community, and we are unique and prepared to do it. What good is gathering information and knowledge if we don't do something with it? The question I pose is should we continue with the forum?

Ms. Sharpley

I agree with Mr. Mays about the debate, because one of the candidates while campaigning last week, and I did actually hear what he was saying, and he really wanted to have the option and I asked, "Are you willing to come, and do you want to talk?". He said that he didn't feel like he had an option. Basically, what he's saying is that if they don't show, you know, who's the better candidate.

Mr. Rashid

We'll come back to that, in old business, and then make a collective decision as to which way we're going to go with the forum.. But the question that I have for the audience is what kind of community do we really want to have in East Cleveland? What do we really want East Cleveland to be? I think that's the real question that we need to be asking each other and then how do we get there? when you really think about it, what else do we as community leaders ask? What are we supposed to be doing if we're not trying to shape and mold and move our community in the right direction? Our neighbors to the to the immediate walking distance to the south is Cleveland Heights, and within walking distance to the west is University Circle. If any of you walked around the Coventry area or Lee Road with vibrant activities like, bars, bookstore, businesspeople, entertainment, and shopping. Have any of you maybe walk around the University Circle area and notice the beautiful apartment being built with people walking around shopping and enjoying entertainment like the Wade Oval concerts. These communities have one thing in common, vision. They have a

vision, then they create plans to make their vision a reality. Think about this Forrest Hills was a beautiful park system located right here East Cleveland. It can be enjoyed within walking distance from almost anywhere in East Cleveland and you're able walk to Forrest Hill Park. At one time, Patterson Park was a recreational playground for kids, kids as far as the eye could see all day long, with tennis courts, basketball courts, baseball diamonds. All these things going on every single day. Now look out there, if

Mr. Rashid

you see one child crossing the street... Something is wrong here about the way that we're running our own community. RTA the transit system for all of greater Cleveland, the Red Line stops here in East Cleveland, and I typically choose to think of Windermere as the beginning of the line, instead of the end of it. Right now, you can walk to Windermere and this transportation system that can take you to Public Square in downtown Cleveland, and many points in between or even Cleveland Hopkins International Airport for worldwide travel. We have the kind of built-in assets, which at one time made East Cleveland the premier suburb of the city of Cleveland. Also, let me remind you just in case anyone has forgotten, East Cleveland is a suburb and not just an extension of Cleveland, and I think people get confused with that sometimes and our expectations have changed, because we're looking at ourselves, not as being a suburb, which we are. So, we still have those assets, they're still part of our community, we have to build about our assets to create a community that we can work within with dignity and pride so our seniors can walk the streets safely, and our children grow up in the community with pride just like I did when I grew up in East Cleveland. So, it's up to us to determine how we want to shape the future of our community. The East Cleveland Public Library has a vision for the city of East Cleveland. A vision of working daily creating an environment to live in, just like what we see in our close neighbors Cleveland Heights and University Circle, with the right leadership in the support of the community there is no reason why we cannot reinvent ourselves and become a strong independent community that we want to be in 2021 and beyond. We must decide to find a way to work together. I can't emphasize this enough, because we got to find a way to work together. East Cleveland is only three and a half square miles and almost one mile in this park, but it's our three and a half square miles. We are the people who live here, and who have their heart invested in this community have a right to look to a common cause, and then focus ourselves. Our mission has to be to rebuild and revitalize the city and the economy of East Cleveland Ohio. It's my sincere hope that whoever wins this election will make that commitment to rebuild and revitalize our town. And as leaders, it's all of our responsibility as well. When we work together towards a common goal, anything's possible. I want to

end this report with a quote from my lifetime hero, Muhammad Ali. It's very simple "Impossible is nothing". That concludes my report.

VIII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Rashid

The next thing on the agenda is the Director's report, Mr. Latimer.

Mr. Latimer

Thank you, I'll be very brief. Our Community Day was very successful. We have a Board Alumni here, Dr. Rice. Thank you for joining us. The Summer Reading Club was very successful, although we did not have many children in the building, but we did engage the children in summer school as a school district. So, we were getting those kids engaged, so that went very well. The upgrade to the building in moving forward, you all came through the front entrance, and you saw the new carpet, it looks very good. In the teen area the carpeting is complete. So, most of the carpeting today is about 80% complete. What is remaining is the print center and the installation of the actual hardware. The Carnegie air conditioning units work will begin on Monday the 23rd. So, we had additional compressors fail, so we're getting to cost around that. but the initial repair on the air conditioning unit to pay for by the Cleveland Foundation, that the board had already approved. Also, safety guard rails are being repaired. All of the painting has been completed. Ross (Cockfield) and Theresa (Flood) will give an update on where we are with the copy machines. The library did pass its annual fire inspection testing, with no repairs needed. There were a few little repairs that we've had to the fencing outdoors. So that concludes the Director's report. , Mr. Chairman. Yes, sir. Before I move, to receive the

Mr. Mays

Before I move to receive the Director's report, the reason we don't have too many children as alluded in the director's report. It is because we are tearing down everything, it doesn't take brains to tear down. It takes brains to build. And that's what's lacking here in the city. Children in schools is not only affecting the library, but also the school as well. When school let out, and especially Kirk middle school, and when they let out during the day, you could not see Kirk for children coming down the street. We had to have police out there to kind of spread the children out so cars could pass. That's not happening today. Why? Because we put people in office that came in and just tear down everything, buildings that had been rehabbed. So that's what caused the population to go. Now we're down to 13,000 people in the city of East Cleveland from 45,000 to 50,000 people lived in this city. Now we got 13,000 people. So, it affects not only the

schools, but it also effects the city as a whole because there is no revenue. And the city's going to continue to drop. As you indicated about, University Circle on the west side, Cleveland Heights has on the south side. Nothing happened on the north side in that area but it's not as bad as here. So those are the problems.

- Mr. Mays** Mr. Chairman, I moved to accept the Director's Report.
- Dr. Harris** Second, MaryAnn Harris.
- Mr. Rashid** It's been second by Dr. Harris. Mr. Turner will 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), Ms. McDonald (yes)

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Mays moved, and Dr. Harris seconds the approval of the Director's report.

The Director's report is approved.

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

- Mr. Rashid** Seven yeses. The Director's report has been accepted. The Fiscal Officer's report is the next thing on the agenda.
- Mr. Cockfield** Thank you, Mr. Rashid. Reading directly from the report. Reconciled cash/fund balances as of July 31st were \$1,463,263.46 compared to

\$977,785.08 as of July 31st last year, a difference of \$485,478.38. I attribute the increase in cash balances to reduced spending/prudent spending and increases in support both through foundations and government. Through the first seven months of the year total General Fund operations are running under budget at 56% of budget as against 58%, the benchmark, however there are some line items that require adjustment. Mr. Latimer and I will be presenting a revised budget in September to make the adjustments. Thru July we have received 82.645% of our budgeted General Fund revenue. Our PLF distribution in July (\$166,495.77) was approximately \$30k more than was received in July (137,706.73) of 2020. Delayed tax filings and reduced sales tax collections of last year are attributed to the difference. We've received our notification of estimated PLF revenue for 2022 with East Cleveland's proposed allocation to be \$1,544,443.52 as compared to the 2021 estimated allocation of \$1,312,603.31 or a difference of roughly \$241,840. As you are probably aware, we legally received only one bid for our marquee project. The Board has elected to rebid the project in September. Lastly, our print/copy center is in the final stages of development. Meritech, our new copier vendor (who replaced American Copier Solutions), has supplied us with revised quotes for equipment which far exceeds the capabilities of the equipment in our original quote. Ms. Flood and I are working on projected sales and will be making formal presentation to the Board next month. That concludes my report.

Mr. Rashid

I have a question. Once we open, do we market to the businesses and other institutions in the community, the services we offer at the print copy center?

Mr. Cockfield

Obviously, that's an excellent question. I talked with Mr. Latimer about developing contracts with not only the school district, but possibly City Hall, businesses, any organizations in the city that might be doing volume printing, to see if we can get some ongoing contracts in order to support their projects. So yes, I would say yes, I think that it would behoove us to do that.

Mr. Rashid

Okay, the reason why I asked that question is because as we accept these quotes for the equipment that we're bringing it here, I want to make sure that we're taking into consideration of who we are marketing to, so when we're getting jobs and a lot of times these jobs are rush jobs that we have the staff to be able to accurately turn the stuff around in the timeframe that we promised and we have the equipment to actually to do the work, so that's why I the questions from what niche do we market to looking at bids as well as other institutions that exists. So, if we have the capabilities to do that, I think we should make sure that we identify just what our max capability is

so that we know internally we have the staff and resources to get the job done.

Mr. Cockfield The equipment that Meritech has proposed to us is a monster, I mean it's a very large piece of equipment that does everything but sliced bread.

Group (Laughter)

Mr. Mays Do you have a projected date as to when this copy center will be up and operating?

Mr. Cockfield I'm going to say two months on the outside, I don't know per Mr. Latimer's comments, I don't know where we are in terms of having the floor done and I know all the electrical is in, but I don't know where we are in terms of having the floor done and finalizing that space. But I will probably say on the outside two months

Mr. Latimer We're looking at the installation as well as internal training procedures and external marketing. So, we're going to present a version of a business plan to the board in September.

Mr. Mays My second question are you getting prepared to do the bids again, in refers to the marquee because I will see that marquee up.

Mr. Cockfield The bid is not going to change, Mr. Mays. The bid documents are not going to change. All we're going to do was just resubmit to the public and everything is going to be as it was. Last time we went out for bid I'm not making any changes to the bid documents. It's just going to be reissued.

Mr. Mays Alright, I just want to see that.

Mr. Silvera Mr. Chairman, I move that we accept the Fiscal Officer's Report.

Mr. Mays Second.

Mr. Rashid Is there any further discussion on the matter? Mr. Turner will you please call the roll.

Discussion: None

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

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

The Fiscal Officer's report is approved.

X. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Mr. Rashid Seven Yes. The Fiscal Officer's report has been accepted. Committee updates, the finance committee is up first.

Mr. Silvera Mr. Chairman the finance committee did not have a meeting this month, but we do have two resolutions that me and Ms. McDonald are sponsoring to the full board for consideration today.

A. Finance Committee Report (Chairperson)

1. **Resolution 08-02-2021: to be a Benton Institute Host Organization and Participant in a Digital Ecosystems: A Participatory Research Project.**

Mr. Silvera The first one is resolution 08-02-201 To be a Benton Institute Host Organization and Participant in a Digital Ecosystems: A Participatory Research Project, Sponsored by G. Silvera, Co-sponsored by C. McDonald. I'll read it into the record. Members of the East Cleveland Public Library's Board of Trustees have, met discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on August 21, 2021. Resolution number 08-02-2021 to be a Benton Institute host organization and participant in a digital ecosystem: A participatory research project. Whereas, the Benton Institute for Broad Band & Society through a recommendation from the Cleveland Foundation

has invited the East Cleveland Public Library to be a host organization and participant in a Digital Ecosystems: A participatory research project. And, Whereas the research study will help determine how digital inclusion coalitions understand the root cause and impacts of digital inequality and how these coalitions are working to address these issues. The goal is to provide findings to help policymakers in the U.S. develop more effective digital equity strategies nationwide. And, Whereas the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society (Benton) will manage compensation and other administrative matters. Benton will pay your organization \$4,200 in two payments, \$2100 on signature of the Consent Form for the Host Organization and \$2100 at the end the program, on presentation of invoices. The term of the program is two months from execution of the Consent Form for the Host Organization, or on completion of the project, whichever is later. And, Whereas the East Cleveland Public Library will recruit one young adult (19-24) to join the program using the materials provided by the program. ECPL will pay the Benton Digital Equity Action Research (DEAR) Fellow \$1,800 to work 15 hours/week at \$15/hours for 2 months on-site at the library. Also, ECPL will use part of the funds to pay one staff member \$2,400 to work 15 hours/week at \$20/hour to supervise the Fellow. And, be it resolved adoption of Resolution No. 08-02-2021 : To be a Benton Institute Host Organization and Participant in a Digital Ecosystems: A Participatory Research Project for the acceptance of the grant from the Benton Institute for Broadband & Society of \$4,200 for the East Cleveland Public Library to use as noted. Receipt of the grant funds will be recorded to "Restricted Contributions – Foundations" account code 613 and grant costs will be charged to "Other - Purchased and contracted services" account code 220-390. We move for its adoption.

Ms. Sharpley

Second.

Mr. Rashid

Is there any further discussion on resolution?

Mr. Mays

Yes. This broadband, is that the individuals that we met with?

Mr. Latimer

No, it's indirectly related to that. This is more of a general overview of the lack of broadband down here in East Cleveland. This partnership is of course recommended by the Cleveland Foundation. Our staff member A'Sarah Green is one of the digital ambassadors that's a part of that committee. So, our hands are tied to participate, but this is a great thing. This is one of those things when we receive funding from the Cleveland Foundation, they want us to continue to be engaged with this whole digital inequities initiative.

Mr. Mays

So, this is going to be housed here?

Mr. Latimer This particular research project, yes.

Mr. Rashid Any further discussion?

Dr. Harris I have a question, how are we going to recruit this young person? Do we have a plan?

Mr. Latimer Yes, it will be similar to how we post all of our positions. However, if anyone knows anybody, encourage them to complete an application and give us a resume.

Dr. Harris So, say like, some of those most recent graduates from Shaw high school, how strong do they need to be in technology? Because I know several students who graduated a couple years ago that could fit in this and they're attending Cuyahoga Community College right now, that's why I'm asking.

Mr. Latimer They did not send us a recommended or suggested job description. However, I believe we're going to use the Digital Navigator's job description that we passed that last board meeting as a baseline to identify someone for this particular opportunity.

Mr. Rashid How is the person that's interested access that information so they can see what the job requirements are?

Mr. Latimer It will be posted on the library's website.

Ms. McDonald Just to make sure everybody's on the same page, does everybody know what the digital ecosystem is? A what is going to be? How was going to be used?

Dr. Harris Not exactly. Can you explain, please?

Ms. McDonald So, you know how you have outer linkages and inner linkages that connects different systems together? ...Let's hypothetically use Cleveland Clinic, University Hospitals and Metro hospitals health systems. When it comes to inner linkages, we see how all of these things connect, right? Then we quantify them, and then take a qualitative measure based on how this system does it in its link with the other system, which system fared better in the ways that they use the information. So basically, for the person for this position, I believe it's not just understanding how systems work, but looking at it from a point of organizational linkages to see who's doing what, and how does it fit with whatever research they're trying to do. So, they're kind of connecting everything electronically, and then putting it in the database.

Mr. Rashid So that suggests that this person needs to have an advanced knowledge in computer science?

Ms. McDonald Yeah, I think computer science is the thing, data collection, maybe statistics somewhat. How in depth, I don't know. because I don't know what information they're looking for. But at least the ability to obtain it.

Mr. Rashid Maybe they'll provide us with a job description

Mr. Latimer Exactly. I don't have all the details. Ms. Green sits at the table on this particular initiative. I'm sure she's going to be working with not only this library staff and recruitment, but also some of the organizations like Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland State, Case Western Reserve and other colleges and universities. This information more likely is going out to those college students and will drive them to these particular libraries where this particular fellowship positions will be.

Dr. Harris I have another question. So, this is in addition to that \$50,000 2-year position?

Mr. Latimer Yes, this is something totally different.

Mr. Mays Mr. Turner can we call for 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), Ms. McDonald (yes)

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved, and Ms. Sharpley seconds the approval of Resolution 08-02-2021.

Resolution 08-02-2021 is approved.

Mr. Rashid Seven yeses. Resolution Number 08-02-2021 passes.

Mr. Latimer Also want to say to having the library participate in these type of initiatives helps keep us on the cutting edge. We don't want to be like the rest of the other organizations with their infrastructure...

Mr. Mays ...Mr. Chairman, I moved the Director out of order, because we've had the discussion and passed the resolution, and we must move on.

Group (Laughter)

Mr. Rashid We have another resolution on the agenda.

2. Resolution 08-03-2021: To Accept the Grant from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in the Amount of \$1523.86.

Mr. Silvera Mr. Chairman, Resolution to Accept the Grant from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in the Amount of \$1523.86, Sponsored by G. Silvera, Co-sponsored by C. McDonald. Members of the East Cleveland Public Library's Board of Trustees have, met discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on August 21, 2021. Resolution number 08-03-2021: To accept the grant from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in the Amount of \$1523.86. Whereas, the Greater Cleveland Food Bank has been a long-time partner of the East Cleveland Public Library with the shared interest in helping the community. And, whereas the Administration of the East Cleveland Public Library is making the recommendation to the Library Trustees to accept this grant of \$1523.86. And, whereas the East Cleveland Public Library will purchase outdoor equipment for the full amount of \$1523.86. And, be it resolved, Adoption of Resolution No. 08-03-2021: To Accept the Grant from the Greater Cleveland Food Bank in the Amount of \$1523.86. for the East Cleveland Public Library to use as noted. Receipt of the grant funds will be recorded to "Restricted Contributions – Business" account code 612 and grant costs will be charged to "Other – Purchased and contracted services" account code 110-390. We move for its adoption.

Mr. Rashid Is there any further discussion?

Dr. Harris Second.

Dr. Harris Outdoor equipment, please explain what that is.

Mr. Latimer Because of the pandemic, many of the community partners that partner with the Cleveland Food Bank had to take their programs outdoors and a lot of those organizations didn't have tables and chairs and garbage cans and waste baskets and things like this. So, this is a micro grant to provide to the partners to provide those services so we can do programming outdoors.

Dr. Harris We need a couple of good carts so we can do some pop-up programming outside.

Mr. Rashid Okay, is there any further discussion? Mr. Turner 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), Ms. McDonald (yes)

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Silvera moved, and Dr. Harris seconds the approval of Resolution 08-03-2021.

Resolution 08-03-2021 is approved.

B. Personnel Committee Report (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid Seven yeases, resolution number 08-03-2021 passes. Okay. Next item on our agenda is the Personnel Committee.

Ms. Shaheed The Personnel Committee didn't have the meeting, but we are in the evaluation process of the Fiscal Officer and the Director.

C. Buildings and Grounds Committee Update (Chairperson)

- Mr. Rashid** Okay, thanks. The next item on our agenda is the Buildings and Grounds committee.
- Mr. Mays** There was a meeting in reference to the marquee, and at that time we agreed to go back out to bid. We had two people who bid, but we only received one. And the other one was here on the premises, but we were not cognizant of that particular bid until later... then we tabled it to go back up appears. So that's why we're going back out for bids, and I just hope, by the grace of God that we do get the marquee and this time we will move on and erect the marquee. Because it plays a critical role in this library. Secondly, we also discussed who receives mail when it comes to the desk, and it has been discussed earlier and I won't elucidate on that because the Director has shared with us how they are redirecting the mail and how it will be received and will see that this doesn't happen again. As we have encountered in the past. We do have a resolution.
- Dr. Harris** I have a question. So, the bid that was not recognized, was it hand delivered or was it mailed by USPS or FED EX?
- Mr. Mays** The problem happened inhouse.
- Dr. Harris** Okay. I was just wondering if it was hand delivered. Because they have to follow the process. If it says they're supposed to be mail it, it should be mailed. In the write up did it say they can be hand delivered?
- Mr. Mays** They can be hand delivered. That wasn't the problem. The problem was it was delivered by FedEx. But the problem was in house. That's why that we had discussion with the Director to put policies in place...
- Mr. Rashid** Is there any further discussion on Buildings and Grounds?
- Mr. Mays** I think we have a revolution here.
- Mr. Silvera** That's in old business.
- Mr. Latimer** The Chair of Buildings and Grounds is out of order.
- Mr. Mays** There is no further discussion for the Buildings and Grounds report.
- Group** (Laughter)

D. Library Services Committee Update (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid We'll move on to the next item on the agenda, the Library Services committee.

Dr. Harris Thank you very much. But we have yet. So, we are planning on meeting in September, because we want to we have suggestions for the copy center.

E. Strategic Planning Committee (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid Alright, so we're moving right next to the next item the Strategic Planning committee.

Mr. Latimer There is an update that Ms. Green sent it out before she went on vacation. However, there is any update, the third quarter on Facebook and on YouTube, we'll send it out to all the board members.

F. Ad Hoc Committee Update (Chairperson)

Mr. Rashid The next item is the Ad Hoc committee.

Mr. Silvera There is no report, but we do have updates from the communication that Ms. McDonald had with the legal counsel.

Mr. Rashid Okay, that's the property.

Ms. McDonald So just get everybody up to speed. There has been some movement with the public records requests for some more in-depth information. What I did get back will allow us some more in a different way, as far as approaching it from a legal perspective. There are several things that we will talk about implementing and looking into, which is adverse possession, and to try to put in a petition for action. I think that would kind of move us forward. I did speak with the attorney and the attorney made some suggestions. But at this time, I'd like to meet with Mr. Silvera with more detail to get him caught up with what we spoke about. We were going to revisit this, but I can say that I feel that now

we're in a better position to move forward with what we're trying to do ti getting the land.

Dr. Harris Just out of curiosity, do you know if any other thing like that another citizen or someone who is having the same kind of issues of concerns dealing with trying to get property from the land bank?

Ms. McDonald As far as identifying individuals, I couldn't say but I think that to generalize what's happening, there may be an issue with the policy related to acquiring land from the East Cleveland land bank, which is what needs to be addressed, because I'm quite sure we're not the only ones.

Ms. McDonald It means when someone is holding land or property that you believe that you are entitled to that you can possibly do what's called a quiet deed, in order to sustain some things until you move to the court procedure.

Ms. Shaheed What does first position mean?

Mr. Rashid It also says to the city has not been forthright in providing us with the documentation that was requested in your records request.

Ms. McDonald I would say, just for a matter of alleging is that there were some discrepancies with the information that they said that they did not have. Because in former request, we did receive information related to that. So, some of the things that we requested were piggybacked off of the last request that they said weren't available for my request, but in previous years had already been sent. So, there's a discrepancy right there as to either you have the documents, or you don't but we see that you didn't have the documents, but you're saying you can't produce them now. So that brings in a question of the validity in their responses to us overall.

Mr. Rashid Is it in the documentation that you requested, a title or deed to verify the rightful owner of this property and whose possession that it is actually in? Did they provided that document to us?

Ms. McDonald No, that's one of the discrepancies because I asked for a specific time frame. Even if the land is the parcels in the land bank, there should be some recordings that the city of East Cleveland has, that shows the transactions between the title, the county auditor's office, and East Cleveland. So, when I asked for information as to the acquisition and so forth, and to get a response back that those records were not available, that cannot be true, because then you're saying that this land does not exist.

Mr. Rashid

Wow, just as a ballpark guesstimate how long these things going to take? Even if we have to go to court to finally have the matter resolved? Because I mean, the simplest thing to do is for the city a straight approach to getting the land. Because we want to expand the library. I don't know what the highest and best use it can be for us especially where this land is located other than what we would like to do with it. So, if we were forced, and I mean, we would have to be forced, because they've left us no choice but to go to the courts. How long do you think this might drag out?

Ms. McDonald

Well, ultimately, I think it depends on what evidence is presented. I think that even when you talk about squatter's rights in terms of who took care of the land, and so forth. So, you have some things that there's 21 years, there's 10 years and then there's, five to seven years depending on which way we approach it, right, which the adverse possession or whatever you do. So, realistically, looking at this, and this is just speaking from my research and what I have seen, it has taken me all the way out to California, with some issues with the property. So, I think that this is a time for it for negotiations, to be honest.

Ms. McDonald

When I asked for records for this specific timeframe, they said they did not have them. So even when transactions for anything from homes or land is transferred, there is a record from the Cuyahoga County auditor's office this shows that and when I asked for that, they said they had no records. So, you have to have records because that there is land there.

Mr. Mays

You did have the parcel numbers?

Ms. McDonald

Yes. They said that they had no records of it, but you have to produce records that this transaction took place or you're saying you don't have property. Now, there are two particular properties to particular land parcels I should say that are definitely raises eyebrows because of the value of it, where I trace back to more than five years, almost nine. And I believe I went back nine, where there was a mortgage transfer in excess of \$150,000 for one property and \$126,000 for another, while the land itself is only valued at the most is \$7000 per parcel or a little bit over. So, from that I've asked for documents pertaining to the demolition of the property. That's what they're saying this money comes from. So that's I'm saying, it is more to what we see before us. So that's why I'm asking to put in place and adverse possession injunction or something of that nature, because we need to stay any movement on that until we get an official hearing.

Mr. Mays Also, in that injunction that we have been maintaining the properties as well.

Ms. McDonald That's right.

Mr. Rashid Dr. Rice is in the audience, I know that she has some records that may be helpful to us as well.

Dr. Rice Believe me, they're in my comments, I'm waiting for audience participation.

Ms. McDonald ...That's going to be key because I number one, we need to know when those homes were demolished. Number two, it helps me trace the Cuyahoga County auditor's activity. And again, the connection between California and a couple of the properties that are in question, which there has to be records because this is out of state. The city of East Cleveland owns this property. So where are those records?

Ms. Shaheed Thank you, Ms. McDonald. I'm so proud you're with us.

XI. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Rashid To make a long story short, the plot thickens. Is there any further discussion on this matter? The next item is new business, the selection of artwork for the main library.

Mr. Latimer Briefly, the library, owns a valuable collection of artwork, which is in the archives, and we would like the board to take a look at some of that at the next meeting. So, we can have those pictures throughout the library. we've got empty walls right now; we do want to bring that artwork out. So, we're going to bring physical or digital copies at the September meeting for the board to select.

Mr. Mays Are the archives here or are the archives in Cleveland?

Mr. Latimer Here at the Library. The presidential letters are at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

Mr. Mays Ask Mr. Cooper about the information and all the stuff that he found going through and remodeling stuff downstairs. There was a lot of stuff that he found, and it was my understanding that it was taken to Cleveland, because we did not have the facilities here to house it. So, check with him for that stuff.

Mr. Latimer You brought that to my attention before, Mr. Mays. I did check with Mr. Cooper and the only thing he shared with me were the presidential letters that were handed over for admission at the Art Museum.

Mr. Mays That's not true, there's more stuff besides the letters. But I know there was other stuff that he had. I asked him about it at the time and he said they were given to Cleveland.

Mr. Latimer Are you aware of anything, Mr. Turner?

Mr. Turner Just the presidential letters.

Mr. Latimer Okay, we'll check on that.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

1. Resolution 08-04-2021: To Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet and Technology.

Mr. Rashid The next item on our agenda is old business, To Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet and Technology. Can I get a motion to approve?

Mr. Mays For what?

Mr. Rashid To approve Resolution Number 08-04-2021 To Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet and Technology.

Mr. Mays The resolution is that short?

Mr. Rashid I'll read it in its entirety. Resolution to Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet and Technology, sponsored by Z. Rashid, Co-sponsored by O. Mays. Members of the East Cleveland Public Library's Board of Trustees have, met discussed and reviewed the following items in an open meeting on August 21, 2021. Resolution number 08-04-2021: To Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet

and Technology. Whereas PCs for People and East Cleveland Public Library will work with each other to serve low-income households by distributing PCs for People's affordable, wireless internet through the use of PCs for People partner portal at the East Cleveland Library. And, whereas the attached Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into on July 20, 2021, between PCs for People (PC4P) and East Cleveland Public Library (ECPL), collectively, "the parties. And be it resolved, adoption of Resolution number 08-04-2021: To Partner with PCs for People to Provide East Cleveland Residents with Computer Training and Affordable Internet and Technology. Can I motion for it?

Mr. Mays I have the gavel now.

Mr. Rashid Okay. I motion for resolution 08-04-2021.

Mr. Mays Is there a second?

Ms. Sharpley Second.

Mr. Mays It's been moved and seconded by Mr. Rashid and Ms. Sharpley. Is there any discussion?

Mr. Silvera Yes. I know at one point we were seeking information from PCs for People regarding the technology being utilized with the 5G cell phone towers. Did we ever get that information?

Mr. Rashid I'm thinking now, based on some of the conversations I've had, all we're being asked to do is distribute the modems to people coming to get them. We provided as much information as we could about interested involved parties such as the location of the antennas. They did respond to us regarding the basic site location contracts. All we're being asked to do is distribute the modems. So, from that perspective, we gathered the information that we could during the earlier parts of our discussion provided to the individuals it should go to. So now we have to make a decision. Will we be the host to do what we do what we already do with the hotspots? And that's all we're being asked to do.

Mr. Mays There was a question that was asked in reference to the radiation that emanates from those towers in the schools. Has that been answered? Because I know the lady that was making the presentation at the time she alluded to 5G and difference in the radiation that it gives off. So, my question will be directed to Mr. Latimer in reference to the effect that it will have on our students? They are our future.

Mr. Rashid

From what I've read and the things that I've studied, I think it's undeniable that there's some levels of exposure. But what we are being asked to do has no impact on that. What we're being asked to do is to distribute the modems, so that people can actually have access to them. I think we provided as much information as we could to the various institutions about the antennas and about the EMF and everything else. So that's all we can do is just be responsible to provide the information but ultimately, it will be for us like handling the hotspots. I think we should do that.

Mr. Mays

Is there any further discussion on resolution 08 04 2021? Is there any further discussion? Is there any further discussion? Hearing Mr. Turner poll the board.

Discussion: None

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

Yes – 7

Motion passes.

Mr. Rashid moved, and Ms. Sharpley seconds the approval of Resolution 08-04-2021.

Resolution 08-04-2021 is approved.

XIII. AUDIENCE PARTICPATION

Mr. Mays

Resolution 08-04-2021 passes.

Mr. Rashid

That concludes our old business. The next item on our agenda is audience participation. I see we do have someone in our audience that wants to speak.

Dr. Rice

Firstly, good afternoon one and all. I have a couple things. I certainly want to thank the director for that report. That was a very good report. And I was wondering, we will be here the East Cleveland school board will be here for Schools Connecting Community meeting on Wednesday. I certainly hope you'll have someone here to give a real brief library report at our meeting, I'm sure that that could be worked out. Because I know many of the people would love to hear some of those things that I heard. Great, great, great. Also, for the President's report, what a great report it's good to hear. That the library is really concerned about the city of East Cleveland and want to be a leader in trying to move this city forward. So excellent report. Mr. President Rashid, and I'm certainly hoping that some of those thoughts and ideas we'll move forward. As far as the copy center is concerned, just to throw out a little couple things I taught in the University Circle area and I know that a lot of those students down there complain about the type of prices and what have you, for the copies over there. So, make sure that you saturate the university with information about East Cleveland. Also, some of those businesses there that have large copy needs. You know, look at the prices that a copy shop has, and I bet you guys can probably beat them. I know when I was doing business down there, they were extremely expensive. Hopefully, when you're thinking of putting in a copy center as far as pictures are concerned, these young people kill me. I'm going to take a picture of somebody, and yet I've got to drive halfway around the world to find a person who prints pictures. So, think about that. I'm really sorry, I missed the bookbag thing for hundreds of people, that was wonderful. I know I told several people in the neighborhood about the bookbags, both here and on 352nd street those were the two places that I knew about today, so I was sending the patrons too.

Dr. Rice

I worked hard on that land bank. But there were so many crooks, we fought like dogs. We had a member on the board, who throw me up under the bus trying to get that property. That land has brought about a lot of heart aches and a lot of pain. I'm glad to hear about your level of research, because I didn't take it quite that far, by no means whatsoever. But yes, if you want to see any, I'm a packrat. I have all those documents from way back then, I'll be happy to share them with you.

Mr. Rashid

Dr. Rice, what year was that? Do you remember?

Dr. Rice

I can't remember the exact year, but I can tell you I've been on the school board for six years. So, it was before then. So, it had to be like

2013 or 2014. Excuse the expression, I'm a little country, but everybody and they mama wanted that land. We had some knockdown, drag outs about that. So, I'm so glad to hear that the library is fighting. Don't let them get away, we won't get I fought and fought hard, and then moved on to the school board. But I really hope that this library will get that land and if there's anything the school board is pleased with, or can do to assist, let us know because we will be right there arm and arm with the last my last time and

Dr. Rice

As far as the PCs are concerned, I know that I get a lot of calls at my home about those towers that went up. As you know that when the towers went up, the school board had nothing to say or nothing to do about that. But we do have something to do with them raising it to 5G. Hopefully we'll be back in control before too long. As far as the 5G, I think it would behoove us to join together and have hearings on it and let some of the experts from around the city and state to come in and talk to us about it. So that we can go from a knowledge base. People are really jumping off the roof about 5G. So, if you all are in agreement, maybe we can do something about having that type of town hall about 5G. I think those are by all of the comments that I have. Thank you for listening and thank you for allowing me to have my comments.

Ms. McDonald

Dr. Rice, because it takes a lot of time, I'm thinking about the students and always how we can utilize our students and it will be nice, and I don't know if we can do it, if I can have two students or so as research interns to help with gathering some of the information online in archives.

Dr. Rice

It's not a problem, but you know, I live on the border of Cleveland Heights and East Cleveland and the little old ladies with the gray hair, I have four of them. We would love to help with some of that research, I just have to gather them up again. But Cleveland Heights did a research project, they tapped into us, and we were up there practically the whole summer a year or so ago digging into all those old papers and stuff.

Ms. McDonald

That will help. Because there's going to be some things that take us out of state. So yeah,

Dr. Rice

Maybe we'll get some interns as well as the Forrest Hills Club (East Cleveland side).

Mr. Rashid

Dr. Rice has asked for a representative to be at this meeting on Wednesday, August the 25th from 4-6pm. The director is going to be out of town is there anyone that can volunteer from the board to attend here at the library from 4-6pm?

Mr. Silvera I can be there.

Dr. Rice They'll give a summary of the kinds of things that you say that the library is doing?

Mr. Latimer I can email it to Mr. Turner, a statement of where we're going, which ever board member would like to present it.

Mr. Rashid I'd like to have somebody that says yes.

Mr. Silvera I'll do it.

Mr. Rashid Thank you. I'm just as excited about that copy and print center as you are. I think it's probably a real game changer. I mean, when the director first approached us with that idea I thought it was an outstanding idea. I know for sure that there's nothing like that around us that's close by and convenient. That also shows why we need the expansion and the parking where you can conveniently pull up and go into the library, ask for the services that we have here and get out. So, without anything else on our agenda today I do believe it is time for us to Adjourn.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Mays I move to adjourn and close this meeting at 4:38pm

Dr. Harris Second.

Mr. Rashid The meeting is adjourned.

Discussion: None

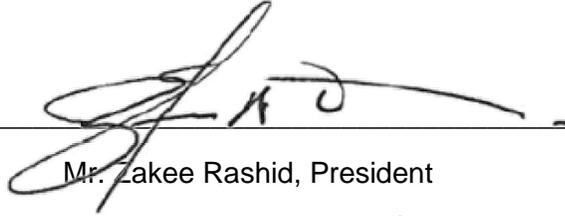
(By general consensus the motion passes.)

Motion passes.

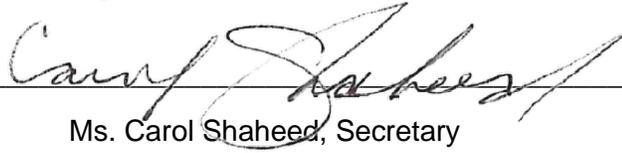
Mr. Mays moved and Dr. Harris seconds adjournment.

[Meeting is adjourned at 4:38 PM]

Meeting is
adjourned.



Mr. Zakee Rashid, President



Ms. Carol Shaheed, Secretary