

**Cedar Rapids Public Library
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
June 17, 2008**

Board members present: President Tim Hill, Vice President Susan Corrigan, Doug Elliott, Maureen Engle, Phyllis Fleming, Joe Lock, Susan McDermott and Dennis McMenimen.

Staff and others present: Interim Director Tam Glise; library staff members Rebecca Bartlett, Marie DeVries (Foundation), Carol Hoke, Patricia Holderness, Jeff Krohn, Chris North, Roger Rayborn, Christina Riedel, Lola Shull (for the union) and Kit Wong; Rochelle Holcomb and Greer Fry (Friends); Chris Schuety (Foundation); Marion Public Library Director Susan Kling; Library Director Jeaneal Weeks and Assistant Director Pat Struttman of the Hiawatha Public Library; and representatives from the public and media.

This special meeting was held at the Marion Public Library to provide information and address the impact of the unprecedented flood of the past week on the library building, its staff, and the future of the Cedar Rapids Public Library. President-elect Susan Corrigan presided. Corrigan emphasized the future, viewing this event as an opportunity to unite the boards of the Trustees, Friends and Foundation, the library management team and staff, and the community. She thanked library employees for all that they did to protect the library from the flood and for their current efforts to recover.

A. Flood of 2008 update and recovery

Glise and three library managers were allowed access to the library building today, reporting that shelving is still intact and therefore the first floor collection is in better condition than expected. The children's collection is intact. The potential for moisture damage is the primary concern, and it is hoped that a large dehumidifier can be brought in quickly to minimize harm. The City has contracted with a company for clean up.

Most of the Zerzanek collection has been removed and the remainder appears safe for now in a more protected area in ISAIC. Librarian and preservation specialist Nancy Kraft of Iowa City has been in contact, and Bruce more is bringing in preservation experts to assist the local arts community.

Officials will not allow staff to enter the building due to air quality concerns, and it is not known when it will be safe for occupancy. The enclosed second floor office might be habitable earlier. Additional space is available for library use at Westdale Mall, and West will serve as our central location for now. The Board asked library staff to research options for a larger interim location.

The City holds daily informational meetings, and the library management team has put its own plan into action. Staff will be deployed at West, at the Marion and Hiawatha libraries, and at an Aegon facility, where the library shares space with several displaced city hall departments. Children's summer programming will continue at the West branch

and at Bever Park beginning this week. Some adult programming will be rescheduled and/or relocated. Glise and Hoke will cancel plans to attend the American Library Association conference scheduled for the end of June.

FEMA will reimburse the City for 75% of flood-related costs, the State 10% and the remaining 15% will be borne by the City. Damages and costs must be thoroughly documented. City revenue projections will be sorely impacted now and in the coming years.

B. Impact, scope and prioritization of projects

The Director Search is deferred until the library regains some equilibrium. All staffing plans are on hold with the exception of the IT position. The review of the library IT setup is in process and will be reactivated at a later date.

Architectural firms were notified that the building program is postponed, and interviews will be rescheduled when planning resumes. The Board recognizes that this may be an opportunity to expedite the renovation plan which may, in fact, be easier to accomplish when flood damage is cleaned up and the building is being restored.

The RFP for hiring a fundraising consultant is in the hands of Judy Lehman, city purchasing director, for review, but it may need to be rewritten now. It was also recommended that library staff research grants and funding resources and seek insight from other flood-experienced libraries.

The Board will continue to move forward with its eye on a November 2009 levy referendum. Regardless of the levy rate, the flood's impact on the city tax base will reduce tax levy income.

C. Timing and coordination with stakeholders

It is agreed that planning must begin now to develop a reserve of volunteer support, articulate the library's needs and be prepared to rally and deploy those volunteers at the appropriate time.

Chris Schuety announced that the Foundation will discuss full-time status for Marie DeVries as a director of external affairs, so that she can devote more time to long-term fundraising, planning and allocation of resources. Glise and DeVries will coordinate operational and media activities. DeVries will manage the mailing list database, draft a letter to library supporters and disseminate a status report to the press.

The library will endeavor to maintain a strong link with the City through council liaison Brian Fagan.

D. Metro Library Collaboration opportunities

The Marion Public Library has made a meeting room available and offered to store the Zerzanek collection. Hiawatha will assume responsibility for the Jewish literature series, so the network will not lose the benefit of that grant. Corrigan recognized the support of Susan Kling and Jeaneal Weeks.

The Board conveyed its appreciation to Tamara Glise for her leadership, the efforts of the library management team and staff, Conni Huber and Judy Lehman of the City, and the City for its organization of the recovery effort. Glise also praised the City for its crisis management, noting that the library is included in the recovery plan and its concerns are being addressed.

E. Adjournment

A special Board of Trustees meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 23, 2008, at the Marion Public Library.