

**Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting Minutes  
June 11, 2009**

**Board members present:** President Susan Corrigan, Vice President Doug Elliott, Phyllis Fleming, Harriet Kalinsky, Hilery Livengood, Joe Lock, Susan McDermott, Dennis McMenimen, and Paul Pelletier.

**Staff & others present:** Interim Library Director Tamara Glise; library staff members Bryan Davis, Marie DeVries (Foundation), Leon Green, Carol Hoke, Patricia Holderness, Karen Johnson, Jeff Krohn, Roger Rayborn, Christina Riedel, Sue Stannard, and Doug Munson (for the union); Mayor Kay Halloran; Adam Belz (Gazette) and another media representative.

**A. Intent to Pursue a 27 Cent Library Levy in November, 2009** – Susan Corrigan – Executive Committee Chair (**action**)

The levy issue was under discussion before the flood because of budget concerns for funding the operation of the library. Meetings with city, state and the community underscored the need to address this issue. FEMA will cover 90 % of the cost of building a like/kind library, and the State is obligated for the other 10%. This funding, however, will not cover operating costs, raising the concern that the community will have a beautiful new library without enough money to run it.

The library is looking at a continued shortfall in funding because city revenue cannot keep up. Over the years the library has been able to absorb these costs with expense and staff reductions, but the library cannot cover these cuts continually. A levy increase is part of the answer to steady funding.

The levy would be an increase from the current 4 cents to 27 cents per \$1000 valuation or about \$1.31 per month for a \$150,000 home. Seventy four Iowa libraries have a 27 cent levy. Cedar Rapids has fallen into the lower part of the list of similar-sized libraries based on per capita support of the library. It seems fiscally responsible to line up operating money before a building a library.

Trustee Pelletier voiced concerns about burdening families with an additional tax at this time. Corrigan responded that putting the levy to a public vote should allay those concerns.

There was concern that not funding the library would cause staff layoffs and a cut in hours, affecting accreditation and state funding based upon the library's status. State legislators have been asking why we are not using this avenue of raising funds.

If the levy passes, the rate would rise to 27 cents on July 1, 2010. If it fails, the current levy of 4 cents would remain until 2013. Today's meeting will not determine the exact

language of the bill which will need to be fairly succinct. Consensus on the term of levy seemed to be that is be ten years since that offers the voters a time to determine if the money is being spent wisely.

*McMenimen moved that the Board authorize seeking an additional library levy of up to 27 cents per \$1000 valuation with a sunset of ten years with the collection of the levy to commence on July 1, 2010. Lock seconded. Eight members of the board voted aye. Pelletier voted no.*

**B. Update of Guiding Principles for a New Library Building – Doug Elliott – Building Committee Chair (action)**

The following additions were proposed: “The main facility should be located in an area that, to the greatest extent possible, avoids the potential for future flooding.

- Moisture and humidity ruin library materials even if they are above the water line
- The CRPL must never again face the losses experienced in 2008

The main facility should have a Friends and Foundation presence.”

*Fleming moved to accept the updated Guiding Principles for a New Library Building. Kalinsky seconded. The motion passed unanimously.*

**C. Acceptance of Loan Agreement with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art to House the Zerzanek Collection of Original Illustrations (action)**

Glise listed the basic terms of the agreement with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art to store the Zerzanek collection illustrations. The Library will retain ownership at no cost to the Library. CRMA received a grant to purchase the cabinetry to store the art. The contract has been vetted by the city attorney’s office. The city retains the insurance. A staff member will be needed to inventory the art. The contact can be terminated at any time.

*McDermott moved to approve the contract with the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art for storage of the Zerzanek art collection. Livengood seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

**D. Old Business**

McDermott reminded the board members of the library director interviews on June 14 and 15.

**E. New Business**

**F. Adjournment**