

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

DATE: March 19, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 4:36 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:23 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

ATTENDING MEMBERS

Ron Gibson, Chair
Vernon Brown
Lonnell Conley
Sherron Franklin
Scott Keller
Earl Salisbury

ABSENT MEMBERS

Isaac Randolph

AGENDA

PROPOSAL NO. 105, 2007 - reappoints Monroe Gray to the Capital Improvement Board of Managers
"Do Pass" Vote: 6-0

Indianapolis - Marion County Public Library Update Presentations:

Laura Bramble, Interim CEO
Becky Dixon, Chief Financial Officer

MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS COMMITTEE

The Municipal Corporations Committee of the City-County Council met on Monday, March 19, 2007. Chairman Ron Gibson called the meeting to order at 4:36 p.m. with the following members present: Vernon Brown, Lonnell Conley, Sherron Franklin, Scott Keller, and Earl Salisbury. Isaac Randolph was absent. Council President Monroe Gray was also in attendance.

PROPOSAL NO. 105, 2007 - reappoints Monroe Gray to the Capital Improvement Board of Managers.

Chairman Gibson stated that Councillor Gray is ending a meeting and would be here as soon as possible. He said that Councillor Gray has served the Council well on the board and asked for any comments, none were offered.

Councillor Conley moved, seconded by Councillor Franklin, to send Proposal No. 105, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Chair Gibson stated that he would interrupt the presentation when Councillor Gray arrived.

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library Update Presentations:

Laura Bramble, Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library (IMCPL) Interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) distributed a packet (Exhibit A) containing the 2007 IMCPL operating budget, annual report, and photos of the central library branch. [Clerk's Note: Exhibit A is on file in the Clerk's Office with an original copy of the minutes.]

Chairman Gibson congratulated Ms. Bramble on her position as interim CEO. He said that he is sure she has been hard at work to meet the needs of the library and its patrons.

Louis Mahern, Library Board President, stated that circulation and door count is up, while continuing to operate within budget constraints yet still providing superior services.

Chairman Gibson stated that Councillor Gray had arrived. He said that the appointment had been approved and asked for any comments regarding the Capital Improvement Board.

Councillor Gray thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve and said this is a very interesting board. He said that he believes that they are doing great things for the city. Some of the projects, such as the convention center and stadium, have been a challenge, but the finished product is something to make the city proud.

Councillor Keller stated that the vote to appoint Councillor Gray was unanimous.

Ms. Bramble stated that 2006 was a great year. The library set a circulation record of 13.7 million items checked out. The library also set a visitation record of 5.4 million visits. She highlighted some of the new services for 2006:

- Live homework help – 4,100 students in grades 4 – 12 have used this online service. The questions are answered by teachers and there has been lots of good feedback for this service.

- 24-hour reference service on the web – This is a service the library purchases and provides free to patrons.
- Downloadable audio books – patrons can download an audio book from the website for their Mp3 player for 15 days. The book disappears after the time expiration.
- Books for Daycare – Central Indiana Community Fund helped the library purchase a small van to deliver books to licensed daycare facilities.
- Bunny Book Bag Program – This is a cloth bag of 20 pre-selected books available for checkout for mothers, children, and day care providers who do not have enough time to pick out books.

Ms. Bramble stated that the existing programs have also been extremely successful. The November 2006 read-a-loud program featured Curious George. This was so popular that many of the branches were inundated with visitors when Curious George was scheduled to visit. She added that the 2006 summer reading program had 58,000 participants. She said that the Central Library construction is going well. Substantial completion should be achieved this summer. A library mover has been hired to move all the books from the interim location to the central location this year. An opening date has not yet been set, but they are hoping that it will be in the fall of 2007.

Ms. Bramble stated that the committee is welcome to take another tour of the building. The mechanical work, access flooring, tile, carpet, and drywall are complete in most areas of the building. However, the analysis and design of the garage repairs are still ongoing. Litigation and mediation regarding the garage work is continuing. The new library will include several new areas, such as: an Indianapolis special collections room, a language lab, a children and family area, an adaptive technologies lab, event space, an auditorium, three public meeting rooms, and a café.

Chairman Gibson said that the committee would like to visit again and asked for a good time to schedule the visit. Mr. Mahern said that construction is scheduled to be finished in June and the books will be moved after that. Visiting before the books are moved in would allow the committee to see all of the finished construction without obstruction. Chairman Gibson agreed and said that they would plan to visit around that time. Mr. Mahern said that the old central library had about 2,000 visitors per day. It is anticipated that the new location will draw about 5,000 visitors per day at the start, and then drop down to an average of 4,000 visitors per day. He added that this will be the first time that the entire library collection will be on display and available for visitors.

Chairman Gibson asked for clarification regarding construction finances. Mr. Mahern stated that there are two funds. Fund 40 is the fund that the money went into for construction. Fund 41 is the account where the money from the garage problems were deposited. This allowed the library to keep a completely separate accounting of the garage problems and the costs associated with it for the public and the courts to see. Fund 40 has \$1.9 million left for a contingency fund, and the construction has gone very well, excluding any costs associated with the garage.

Chairman Gibson asked if the majority of the construction is complete. Mr. Mahern said that most of the major construction, except for the auditorium, is complete. The work being done is mostly finishing work. The building has a concrete floor with another floor 24 inches above it. This is the access floor; the HVAC ductwork, electrical, and computer cabling is located under

the floor for repairs. He added that the critical repairs in the garage are complete; the current garage work is not building critical.

Mr. Mahern stated that the current balance in Fund 41 is \$52 million. \$45 million has been issued in bonds. The remaining \$7 million results from not building branches at Lawrence or Flanner House and foregoing some exotic technology.

Chairman Gibson asked for clarification regarding the library's finances for operations. Becky Dixon, IMCPL Chief Financial Officer, stated that utilities were budgeted for six months, and staffing was budgeted for three months for 2007. For 2008, IMCPL will be asking for a budget for a full year of staffing and operations. She said that they tried to staff most of the positions in the central library internally, but some specialty positions, such as special needs and technical positions, need to be hired from outside. Based on the reductions that have been made for the past two years, they believe there is sufficient funding for the opening and operation of the central branch.

Ms. Dixon said that they are hoping to move forward with the capital projects fund. This fund is used to maintain lighting, HVAC, roofing, and paving at the other branches. Their goal is to keep the fund at the 2006 levels. She said they will be selling the last of the bonds in April 2007 and will be doing a refinancing of old debt. The lower interest rates will allow them to save \$1.4 million for the life of the debt.

Chairman Gibson asked for clarification that the 2008 request will remain flat from 2007. Mr. Mahern stated that this assumes that the library will be able to keep the savings from the debt refinancing. Chairman Gibson asked by whom that decision is made. Mr. Mahern stated that the library will propose it, but the Council must approve it.

Councillor Franklin asked in the event that the library is able to keep the refund, if a tax increase will not then be requested. Mr. Mahern confirmed that this is correct. Ms. Dixon stated that they will not request any additional money in 2008.

Councillor Keller stated that the annual report states that the library received \$84,000 from the Gates Foundation for 56 additional computers. He said that 41% of households in Marion County do not have computers at home, and he believes that number is even higher for his district, so he thinks this is a great thing. He asked what the library is planning for the Ambassador building. Mr. Mahern stated that they put out a request for proposals. Those that were returned did not seem to address the issue in a comprehensive way, so they were rejected. The library owns property east of the library, which is where the staff currently parks. He said they plan to ask for proposals that deal with the Ambassador and the parking issue. The proposals will be comprehensive plans for the building, parking, and neighborhood revitalization.

Councillor Brown asked if both the new central library and the interim central library will be closed during the transition. Ms. Bramble stated that both will be closed for two to three months. Councillor Brown asked if the branch will be closed at the end of summer and if patrons will be notified. Ms. Bramble answered in the affirmative and stated that this will be the same procedure used when the central branch was moved to the interim location.

[Clerk's Note: Councillor Franklin left at 5:09 p.m.]

Councillor Brown asked if the library is currently searching for a permanent CEO. Mr. Mahern stated that the board has decided to keep an interim director until the new building is finished. The board believes that the building is too much to add to a new CEO, who will have enough on their plate trying to become acclimated. Councillor Brown stated that he believes that employee-management relations have been poor in the past. He asked if having an interim CEO, rather than a permanent CEO, lowers staff morale. Mr. Mahern stated that employee relations have suffered over the last two or three years, but he believes that those relations have improved significantly. He does not believe that the lack of a permanent CEO will have an adverse affect on employees. Councillor Brown stated that the employees are important because they are the public face of the library. He asked for an update on the process of union recognition. Mr. Mahern stated that the board passed a resolution last week authorizing Ms. Bramble and the attorney to conduct an election through the Indiana Department of Labor. Ms. Bramble has been charged by the board to work out the details of the election process with the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME).

Councillor Conley asked if Ms. Bramble was being considered for the CEO position, especially since employee morale has improved under her tenure. Mr. Mahern said that he has not discussed it with her or anyone and does not know if she is interested in the position. Councillor Conley asked if the \$1.4 million in savings can be placed into interest bearing accounts. Mr. Mahern stated that Ms. Dixon is an asset to IMCPL. Since she has become CFO, banks have started competitively bidding for library business, and every dime of library money is invested somewhere. Ms. Dixon stated that there is no idle cash, all of the funds are earning some kind of interest. She said that the \$1.4 million is an amount that will be saved over time because of refinancing to a lower interest rate. The goal is to make more efficient decisions in the accounting department. The library is now asking for tax advances from the county, rather than using tax warrants. Investment earnings have risen from \$155,000 in 2005 to \$300,000 in 2006 in the operating funds alone. The construction fund has doubled in the last year and a half. She said they are trying to make wise investments and be accountable as stewards of tax dollars.

Chairman Gibson said that this is the most positive fiscal outlook from the library in a long time. The committee is concerned about all of the government entities, but the library branches are very important to communities. He said that he hopes the good work continues. Mr. Mahern stated that it is true that employee relations with the library management have not always been the best, but some of that is attributable to difficult decisions the board has had to make for the past few years. Those decisions are a large part of why the library is able to report a positive financial situation today. He said that he wants to make sure that credit is given to Linda Mielke for making those tough, unpopular decisions during her tenure as CEO. He said that Ms. Mielke may not have had the best bedside manner during some of these problems, but she is one of the reasons that the library has been able to improve financially.

Chairman Gibson asked for an update on Glendale library. Mr. Mahern stated that as a result of negotiations with Kite construction, the library will save \$216,000 over three years because of two key items. The library was due to have a rent increase in 2006, and Kite agreed to not increase the rent. As part of the mall, the library is charged a common charge for heating and cooling. Glendale did not bill the library for five years, and then sent a \$140,000 bill for the entire time period. The library asked Kite to forego the bill, and they agreed. He said that once the construction at Glendale is complete, the board felt that the library space will be less

favorable than before. When closing the branch became something the board was considering, Kite became more amenable to negotiation. The lease for Glendale comes up for renewal in 2010, and the board will consider its options at that time. He stated that sooner or later, the library will have to deal with the mis-distribution of resources in the county. In Perry Township, there is 15,000 square feet of library space. In Warren Township, there is about 27,000, Pike Township has 15,000, and Washington Township has 62,500 square feet of library space. He believes that the library has a responsibility to make sure that everyone in Marion County has a more even shot at receiving library services. Chairman Gibson stated that he agrees and is glad that the board is looking at long-term solutions for that problem. He said that he is also pleased that the library and Kite reached an amicable resolution.

Councillor Brown said that he is pleased that the board is making sure that everyone has adequate library services. He asked if the library can conduct a survey to find out how people arrive at the library. In Warren Township, there are many apartment buildings and people who walk to the library. Other townships may have more people who drive to the library and have an easier time getting to a library that is farther away. This may help determine where to put resources. Mr. Mahern stated that Ms. Bramble and the board have discussed forming a long-term plan for the library, including facilities. He said that in the next year, that type of planning will begin. He added that the last plan was a ten-year plan, and the library is currently at the end of that cycle.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Municipal Corporations Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Gibson, Chair
Municipal Corporations Committee

RG/cmc