

MINUTES

Bossier Parish Libraries Board of Control
Special Meeting
Administrative Offices – Conference Room
March 14, 2019 – 9:30 am

Roll Call: **Library Board**

Mrs. Sally Namie, President
Mrs. Jack Gore, Vice-President, Absent
Mrs. Carolyn Logan, Absent
Mr. Elmore Morris
Dr. Tom Carleton

Police Jurors

Mr. Bob Brotherton, Absent
Mr. Doug Rimmer, Absent

Guests

Bill Altimus, Administrator, Bossier Parish Police Jury
Eric Hudson, Assistant Parish Engineer
Mark Prevot, Prevot Design Services
Geoff Perego, Prevot Design Services
Gary Clarke, Civil Design Group

Staff

Heather McEntee, Library Director
Anne Madison, Associate Director, Public Services
William Purdy, Facilities Manager
Lamont Pearson, Central Librarian
Karen Hinson, Aulds Branch Manager
Marisa Richardson, Curator, Bossier Parish History Center

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Namie.

II. Invocation

The invocation was led by Dr. Carleton.

III. Discussion of land purchase/Central Library and History Center

Heather began by stating the purpose of the meeting: to discuss the purchase of land for the construction of a new Central Library and History Center, across the street from the existing Central complex. The land, slightly over three acres and owned by Bossier City, was appraised at \$800,000. Heather invited architect Mark Prevot to attend the special meeting in order to answer any questions Board members had.

Mr. Prevot stated that he, his associate Geoff Perego, and civil engineer Gary Clark studied carefully the zoning and parking requirements and concluded it is a good site to build on. Mr. Altimus said it would cost approximately \$75,000 to remove the concrete from the land, some of which the parish may be able to use. He reported from Jimmy Hall, Bossier City attorney, that the City is interested in the current building for their use, and also would like to reserve the first right of refusal. Additionally, Mr. Altimus said Homeland Security and the 911 call center located on Doctor's Drive may be interested in buying some or part of the current structure. The current facility has new chillers and roof, which enhances its value.

Mr. Altimus said when Bossier City bought the land (formerly owned by a lumber yard), an environmental study of the land was done and Jones Environmental conducted a test well. The library can secure a copy of the results. Overall, he considered the purchase of the lot and potential sale of the existing property a good use of taxpayer's money.

A motion to move forward with the purchase of the land for a maximum value of \$800,000 plus approximately \$75,000 for concrete removal, and giving the City of Bossier first right of refusal of some or all of the existing property was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Dr. Carleton. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Prevot stated that his firm will use the same timeline to construct the new library. The only question is the size, because of the variance. Building new costs more than renovating an existing building, but he believes he can achieve efficiencies in the new structure that will allow less square footage. However, the parking lot cannot accommodate the 168-170 space requirements, if the library is 43,000 thousand square feet. If reduced to 38,000 square feet, the number of parking spaces will be adequate. Mr. Altimus recommended that the variance in parking be investigated before finalizing the purchase of the land. He will ask Sam Marsiglia, Metropolitan Council Director, to conduct a preliminary site approval that explores the variance. A boundary study also will be requested.

IV. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Morris and seconded by Dr. Carleton. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather McEntee
Library Director