

**OFFICIAL RECORDS OF
THE ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES**

Minutes of Special Meeting January 5, 2022

The Board of Library Trustees of the Allen County Public Library met in special session on Wednesday, January 5, 2022 beginning at 3 pm in the Main Library. Present: Mr. Eisbart, presiding, Mr. Castleman, Mr. Seifert, Ms. Shamanoff, Ms. Tucker, Mr. Williams, and Mr. Moss.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

On motion of Mr. Seifert, the agenda was adopted as presented. Roll call vote was recorded:

Mr. Castleman – Aye.
Mr. Eisbart – Aye.
Ms. Shamanoff – Aye.
Mr. Seifert – Aye.
Ms. Tucker – Second.
Mr. Williams – Aye.

Welcome

Mr. Eisbart welcomed everyone to the special meeting and referenced an article in the *Journal Gazette* this morning regarding regional growth in the Fort Wayne area. It was timely in light of the reason that the meeting was called. Today is a milestone regarding the process of the Facilities Master Plan. The recommendations in the plan will outline a path reflecting the growth in Allen County. Ms. Baier thanked everyone in attendance, and read an email from a patron. She said that these times have amplified the importance of ACPL, and the many different things it means to people. She also said that we need to make sure that the buildings are maintained and keeping up with the demands of the patrons, and community growth. With being said, ACPL has enlisted the help of Bostwick Design to assess the current condition of our buildings. After months of site visits, evaluations, community conversations and staff input, we are excited to share the consultant's findings. Upon conclusion, Ms. Baier wanted to thank the community for its participation, the ACPL Board of Trustees, Capital Projects Committee Chair Mr. Seifert, Mr. Eisbart, and Mr. Castleman. Special thanks to the ACPL staff for being generous with their time, and feedback. Ms. Baier acknowledged Chief of Public Service Operations Kim Bolan, Maintenance Manager Jake Ullom, and Director of Communications Stephanny Smith for their hard work, leadership and support during the FMP process.

Presentation of Facility Master Plan: Options and Recommendations – Rick Ortmeier, Bostwick Design Partnership and June Garcia, Library Consultant.

Mr. Ortmeier spoke with regards to the Facilities Master Plan Recommendations. The outline was as follows:

1. Team Introduction
2. Facilities Master Plan Purpose
3. Facilities Master Plan Process
4. Current Conditions
5. System-Wide Recommendations
6. Fiscal Implications
7. Next Steps

A video presentation was presented in which he and Ms. Garcia spoke (virtually) to the needs, recommendations and options for each ACPL locations.

Remarks from Executive Director Susan Baier, Chief Financial Officer Dave Sedestrom, and Director of Communications Stephanny Smith.

Ms. Baier introduced Mr. Sedestrom (Chief Financial Officer, ACPL) to speak regarding the fiscal implementations of the projects. Mr. Sedestrom said that given the size of the options, it will necessary for ACPL to seek financing through the issuance of bonds, which will likely require voter referendum. Until final decisions are made of what these options will include, and what ACPL will do, the amount of money needed is unknown. Due to the fiscal stewardship of the Board of Trustees over the years, ACPL has approximately \$21 million dollars in reserve that can be used toward capital improvements.

Ms. Baier said that the community is an important part of this project and the input is vital. There will be several ways to engage and she introduced Ms. Smith (Director of Communications) to talk more about that. Ms. Smith said that community feedback is important, and there are several ways to be a part of the process. The survey will be live on 1-06-2022 on the ACPL home page in English and Spanish. The report will be on the website 1-06-2022. On 1-10-2022, there will be a live stream session to discuss the FMP and answer community questions. Speakers include Susan Baier, Rick Ortmeier and June Garcia with Kent Castleman moderating. Over the next few months, there will be five open houses. The locations will be: Georgetown, Aboite, Grabill, Dupont, and Shawnee. On 1/10/2022 a website will be launched dedicated to this process. All of the data and feedback from these events will be given to the consultants to be incorporated into the final report.

Remarks from Capital Projects Committee Chair Martin Seifert

Mr. Seifert thanked everyone who is taking in interest in the library. He said that this is a really significant report. This report is guiding ACPL into the mid-21st century. He spoke of his history with libraries and how much of a treasure they are. He is amazed by what the libraries do for the community. The goal is to be transparent and open as this moves forward.

Public Comment

Members of the public offered comments and questions in person and online about the presentation. Topics included having a coffee shop in the Main Library, the cost of the previous building projects, the use of solar energy, and where to find a copy of the FMP.

Adjourn – 4:13 pm

Gloria Shamanoff, Secretary