

**THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
AND
THE DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOINT MEETING**

DURHAM, NORTH CAROLINA

Monday, December 11, 2000

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Place: Commissioners' Room, second floor, Durham County Government Administrative Complex, 200 E. Main Street, Durham, NC

Present: Chairman MaryAnn E. Black, Vice-Chairman Ellen W. Reckhow, and Commissioners Joe W. Bowser, Philip R. Cousin Jr., and Becky M. Heron

Durham County Library Board of Trustees—Chairman Bessie Carrington, Vice-Chairman Ann Craver, and Trustees Lauren Alexander, Carl D. Hodges, William Ingram, Robert K. Otterbourg, and Nancy Wardropper

Library Director Dale Gaddis

Absent: Trustee C. "Douglas" Beckham II

Staff Present: County Manager Michael M. Ruffin, County Attorney Chuck Kitchen, and Clerk to the Board Garry E. Umstead

Presider: Chairman Black

Opening of Joint Session

Chairman Black called the Joint Session to order.

Chairman Black asked Chairman Carrington to explain the purpose of the meeting.

Chairman Carrington responded that the Trustees wish to present the annual report as required by G.S. 153A-266 and to discuss the issues report that require Commissioner action, specifically the following:

- Requested revision of the Library Board Bylaws and clarification of the authority and responsibilities of the Library Board;
- The Library's Capital Improvement Plan, in particular, the need to move forward with acquiring land for proposed new branch libraries; and

- Formation of the Durham Library Foundation, a 501(c)3 corporation, to augment private funding of public library services and facilities in Durham County.

Chairman Carrington discussed the Durham Public Library Bylaws. She asked what the Commissioners expect of the Library Board. A discussion ensued as to whether the Library Board is a policy board or an advisory board.

The Commissioners and the Library Board of Trustees held a lengthy discussion about the matters raised by Chairman Carrington.

Chairman Black said the two bodies should not make a decision about governance of the Durham Public Library Board of Trustees at this time. Staff must review all of the material, consider the policies and procedures, and then discuss where the Library Board should be and how reporting should take place.

The County Manager should review the policies and procedures and bring guidance to the Commissioners. The two Boards can then talk about the governance of the Library Board.

Commissioner Bowser made remarks about whether the Library Board of Trustees is an advisory board or a policy board. A decision should be made in this regard.

The Commissioners and Board of Trustees discussed the concepts of a policy board and an advisory board.

Chairman Black said the Library Board should concentrate on the library and its patrons and let the Commissioners know what your vision is, what is being done, and what must be done.

County Manager Ruffin said when particular situations arise, the Library Board should propose workable solutions.

Chairman Carrington also discussed the Library's Capital Improvement Plan and the need to acquire land for proposed branch libraries.

Chairman Black said she has asked the County Manager to look at the budget relative to land purchase. This item must be discussed in Closed Session and will be placed on the BOCC agenda.

Library Director Gaddis said the Public Library staff is working with the City-County Planning Department in reference to land purchases for libraries.

Chairman Carrington commented that libraries are needed in northern and eastern Durham. Libraries should be located on main arteries and in conjunction with public facilities.

Chairman Black said she has asked Durham Public Schools Superintendent Denlinger to think about whether public libraries could be located on properties the school board considers for schools.

Trustee Craver made a presentation on the efforts to establish the Durham County Library Foundation. She said a 501(c)3 corporation is needed to augment private funding of public library services and facilities in Durham County. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of States office to establish the Library Foundation. The Federal Internal Revenue Service filing has been initiated for the preliminary tax ID number.

Trustee Craver said Willis Whichard, former Supreme Court Justice, has agreed to serve as the first president of the foundation. Bill Self, CPA, will serve as treasurer; Lou McCutcheon has agreed to serve on the Foundation Board.

Vice-Chairman Reckhow thanked the Library Board for placing the Gates Foundation award on tonight's BOCC agenda.

Chairman Black said this meeting was very beneficial. The two groups will meet again when staff completes its work.

Adjournment

Chairman Black adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Garry E. Umstead, CMC
Clerk to the Board