

JOINT EDUCATION AND SPECIAL CALLED COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING
MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2021 | 1:00PM
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS

MINUTES

COUNCILOR J.T. MOORE, COMMITTEE CHAIR
COUNCILORS DARRELL O'QUINN & CLINTON WOODS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councilor(s) Present: Moore, O'Quinn, Moore

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Meeting was called to order by the Committee Chair, Councilor Moore.

II. INNOVATION

The Invocation was by Councilor Moore.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES – November 22, 2021

Councilor O'Quinn Motioned to Approve the Minutes.

Councilor Woods Seconded the Motion.

The November 22, 2021 Minutes were Approved as Recorded.

IV. PRESENTATION: Birmingham Public Library Board – President Eunice Rogers

A. Eunice Johnson Rogers, President of the Board Trustee, Birmingham Public Library presented an introduction of the Birmingham Public Library.

- The library system consists of 18 branched throughout the city limits of Birmingham.
- Their mission is to provide the highest quality experience to the community for lifelong learning, cultural enrichment, and enjoyment.
- The Birmingham Public Library is now 135 years old.
- They are governed by a board of nine (9) trustees, who are appointed by the Birmingham City Council.
- The main goals are advocacy, fund raising, and the administrative structure of the library.

B. Jenny Langston, Executive Director, Birmingham Public Library

Presented an update on the last published annual report for 2019 – 2020 and an overview of services and activities that took place during 2019-2020. (A packet of information was distributed for review and discussion.)

- The new/updated report will be distributed in February.
- The library's strategic plan has been adopted and extended through 2024.
- Citizen services, notary services, voter's registration, etc. are some of the services that are provided provides through the library.
- The library is a passport acceptance agency.
- The Archives and Southern History Department is world renowned.
- Birmingham City School students can use their student ID to access the online downloadable e-books and audiobooks.

The library's structure was explained.

- There are four (4) regional libraries; north, south, east, and west quadrants.
- The Central Library serves as the Hub, where support services and system wide services go out.

C. Kimberly Richardson, Chair, Long-Range Planning Committee presented the library's budgetary information for the period of 2010 – 2022 (Information discussed via handouts).

- The library is interested in expanding corporate and community partnerships.

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- Several branches have closed due to unforeseen circumstances: management, physical, flooding issues, etc.
- The issues with the escalators at the Central branch have been resolved.
- There are some problems with leaking at the Central branch.
- The Ensley branch has been closed since Tropical Storm Claudette in mid-June due to flooding issues.
- The Eastlake branch has been closed since June due to HVAC issues. Staff has been working out of the Woodlawn branch.
- The Powderly branch has been closed for approximately one month due to a leak in the geothermal.
 - Repairs should be made within a month.
- The East Ensley and North Avondale branches are operating on a part-time basis due to staffing issues.
- The library is also following the City's COVID-19 protocol, requiring wearing masks in all facilities, etc. Councilor Moore stated that he would like to use the Education Committee as a platform to create awareness.

Councilor O'Quinn would like a list of the closed branches and facilities maintenance issues.

Councilor Woods inquired about tracking/statistics.

Councilor Moore stated that he would like to see mobile libraries, finding ways to engage communities and go to where they are.

Councilor O'Quinn is interesting in receiving information on public-private partnerships.

Councilor Woods stated that it would be helpful to be involved in the budgetary process/conversations/work session.

No Action Taken – Information Only.

V. **OLD AND NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Educational Building Authority Board Filled**

- Councilor Moore announced that the Educational Building Authority Board vacancies have been filled.

B. The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) Board vacancies will be announced at the December 21, 2021 City Council Meeting.

VI. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilor Woods Motioned to Adjourn the Meeting.

Councilor O'Quinn Seconded the Motion.

The Meeting was Adjourned.