

Finance and Properties Committee Meeting

Minutes

September 1, 1983

The Committee was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman David Marshall in the Board Room of the Library. Present were members Shirley Moore, Marshall Susler, and Mr. Marshall. Also present were Sharon Alpi, ex officio, and Robert Dumas, City Librarian.

Mr. Marshall explained that the meeting had been called to consider whether the Committee should pursue the jobs stimulus bill construction grant. Word was received last Thursday from Rolling Prairie Library consultant Miss Hames that the conditions for the grant had been set and she had read over the phone to Mr. Dumas the nine conditions, one of which was the unemployment rate which Decatur met, and others of which were that the Library contribute 75% of the total project cost and that the Library engage a consultant for the project.

Mr. Dumas reported that he had received the memorandum detailing the conditions from RPLS on the next day and had discussed the matter with Mr. Marshall. Among the problems Mr. Dumas saw were the increased percentage of upfront money the Library would have to supply and the time frame established by State which required that the preapplication documents be received by the State Library not later than September 6. Completion of the documents required reading of a 250 page library building handbook and an accessibility standards manual of nearly 150 pages so that the applications could refer to and meet standards ordained in these publications. Also needed by that date was the selection of the consultant and preliminary plans and layout from the architect. Mr. Marshall expressed skepticism with respect to the conditions. Mr. Dumas did not believe that the work necessary could be accomplished in the time available.

Mr. Dumas reported that he was notified by Miss Hames on Tuesday, August 30 that word had been received from the State that the Library contribution to project cost had been dropped from 75% to 60%. Mr. Dumas asked at this time what the function of the consultant would be in a project such as DPL was considering: she said it was to work with the architect. She was unable to specify what the specific function of the consultant would be in working with the architect.

Several members of the Committee indicated agreement that the necessary work could not be done within the time frame. It was noted that applying for the grant was no assurance that a grant would be received. Questions were raised with respect to payment of a consultant and the architect for the preliminary work if a grant were not received.

It was the consensus of the Committee that it would not recommend submission of the grant application.

Mr. Dumas raised the question of the Per Capita Grant which should be approved at the next Board Meeting. In the past we have listed extraordinary items that could not be accommodated within the budget and which would help the Library improve its services. It was his intention this year provisionally to plan for per capita funds to improve the computerization of circulation against the eventuality of an on-line catalog with provision also for improving the audio-visual collections and perhaps initiating a software collection so that programs could be available for patrons to borrow. But because of the tentativeness of these plans he suggested that the grant be used to amplify collections only and that any extraordinary projects be funded this year from the budget. This would have the advantage of simplifying the application, of using the grant in clear-cut areas relating to Measures of Quality and eliminating gray areas in the purchase of materials for which there is no explicit mention in Measures of Quality. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

The Committee meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

*Robert H. Dumas*