



HCLS Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 19, 2023 ♦ 7 pm
Virtual

Board members present were: Antonia Watts, Chair; Phillip Dodge, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Banach; Rob Mentz; Julie Parham; and Sabina Taj. Also present were leadership team staff members/citizens including Ruba Abukhdeir, Angela Brade, Mary Brosenne, Kelly Clark, Stacey Fields, Cari Gast, Kathleen Klebba, Chris Krupiarz, Nina Krzysko, Christie Lassen, Steve Lewicky, Tanya Malveaux, Kim Montenyohl, Stevia Morales, and Stephanie Shane.

Antonia called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

I opened discussion on the updated funding path for the Lakefront Library. Phillip reiterated his employment by the Downtown Columbia Partnership which will be launching an advisory campaign for the Lakefront Library that will prompt citizens to advocate in support of the new library branch. Angela highlighted the breakdown of costs of the project, to include \$94 Million for the building, \$38.5 Million for site work and parking, and \$10.3 Million for library grounds and transportation.

Angela then presented the revised FY24 Capital Budget which reflects of 1/3 less in GO bond funding than requested for the library proposed at the Merriweather (Crescent) site. Angela summarized the project funding for FY 24 – FY 27, which is comprised of state, TIF, GO bonds, library grants and a philanthropy campaign. I explained that this last funding source is highly achievable given the current interest by donors in supporting the project coupled with various grant opportunities. Further, there are local partnerships to explore.

Angela noted there are contingencies factored into the budget, as well as increased cost of materials. In addition, our last two buildings, Miller and Elkridge came in under budget, with the excess funding going back to the County. Angela explained that costs for moving existing Central materials to the new branch are covered under FF&E.

The Board unanimously approved the revised FY 24 capital budget based on the County Executive's proposal.

The Board unanimously approved the Board meeting executive session minutes from January 17, as well as Supplement 3.

I presented the revised FY 24 Operating Budget aligned with the County Executive's proposed operating budget, which provides HCLS a 5% increase, which is 5% less than the Board approved request. To accommodate the reduced increase, we will use \$200K from the fund balance. This will allow us to cover COLA and merit increases, as well as much needed curriculum increases.

Discussion turned to the architect chosen by Howard Hughes for the Lakefront Library. I summarized my engagement with them, noting their thoughtfulness in learning about our community to inform the design. Christie shared information on the robust project FAQ section on the Lakefront Library page of the HCLS web site. I informed that we just completed a round of community Listening and Engagement Sessions and will be holding Information Sessions where we will provide in depth information on the project background, where the project currently stands, and how community members may remain engaged forward. I encouraged board members to contact us with questions they receive so we may send back out talking points and add the information to the website FAQ.

Angela spoke about the beauty and safety of Miller's rooftop garden. Christie explained that she created a double-sided sheet on the Lakefront Library that lists the top 5 information points. Stephanie will send this out to the Board.

Antonia adjourned the meeting at 7:40 pm.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for 7 pm on **Wed., June 21, 2023**, and will be virtual unless otherwise noticed.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tonya Aikens". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tonya Aikens
President & CEO