**CROSS COUNTY LIBRARY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**

***July 8, 2016***

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order at 4:03 by Board Chair, Reta Ragland.  Trustees in attendance were Joy Shepherd, George Anne Draper, Jerry Harvey, and Kitty Bingham.  Also in attendance, were John Paul Myrick, Executive Director, Claire Miller, Deputy Director.

Public Attendance: Friends of the Library Board Members – Teresa Greene, Verna Fisher, Whitney Hayes, and Renee Boeckmann, County Judge Donnie Sanders, Lyndell Staggs of KWYN Radio.

**Reading and Adoption of Minutes:** None

**Financial Reports:** None

**Operations and Staff Reports:** None

**Public Participation and Comments:** None

**Unfinished Business:** John Paul recommended a suspension of the rules to allow discussion about the Big Green Switch Project.  Kitty moved to suspend the rules to allow for discussion.  Jerry seconded the motion.  All aye, motion carried.

Joy summarized the discussion from the previous Board meeting on Tuesday, July 6th, saying that Judge Sanders has decided not to sell the current library building.  Today’s meeting was scheduled to create a unified response to the Judge’s decision.  Joy mentioned several options:

1.      The library vacates the current building after raising 1.2 million dollars and moves down to Front Street. The current library building would be vacant because the City will not be able to renovate into their new city hall and police station.  Judge Sanders interjected that if the library moved tomorrow, the county would have use for the building because they don’t have room in the current facilities.

2.      Put the decision on the ballot in November and let the Community vote.  This is an expensive option and the Judge has made it clear that the election is not binding so the Trustees could be in the same situation again.

3.      Drop the project here.

4.      Make an organized effort to change the Judge’s mind.

5.      Kitty added that we could see how much funds we can raise to get the momentum going.  The library may not be able to raise 1.2 million but an effort to fundraise will show how much we can accomplish. John Paul reported that a $25,000 check from the Edwin Harris estate will be arriving next week.  Joy said that Mayor Stacy recommended that the library raise money.  Joy said she had be reluctant to ask for money if there was only one option and it wasn’t guaranteed to be successful without County Support.  Whitney said that we can’t ask people for money and not tell them what its for because people are really divided in their feelings.  If we ask for money for expansion and move, people will feel duped.

Jerry said that the library needs to give the people what they need, a 21st century library that meets their need.  The trustees have been looking at the same plans for over a year now.  Maybe it’s time to re-evaluate and look for other options.

Whitney recommended that the Trustees talk to Wynne Economic Development Corporation because they might be willing to help with the project even though the city is no longer involved.

Kitty asked if there were any grants available and John Paul said that capital funds are harder to procure right now.  Project based grants are more common than brick and mortar grants.  George Anne said urban development grants might be applicable.

Renee said that if the library has to raise the entire 1.2 million to pay for the project, it’s going to be harder than the last time.  She mentioned the recession and that people aren’t able to give as much as they have in the past, even Friends membership has been down in recent years.  Verna said that it was ironic that the Friends of the Library worked so hard to pay for the library and it doesn’t even belong to them.

George Anne said that people have mentioned that the community should be focused more on building business and industry than worrying about a new library. Part of what attracts business and industry is a good quality of life which a public library reflects. She said that most of the people who are against the library move are older than she is.  The manager at Dollar Tree has vision of what a revitalized downtown would be like.  She’s probably 38 or 39 years old.  She was excited to learn about the proposed library move.

Verna asked Judge Sanders to explain again why he was against selling the current library building and handing the funds over to the library to use for the project.  Judge Sanders claimed that 75% to 80% of his constituents are against it.  Whitney asked why he did not take into account people who support the project in the paper or on Facebook.  Why does he only listen to the people that call him about it.  Judge said that he has been following the project in the paper and on Facebook.  Judge Sanders also said that he has nothing to do with the money coming to the library.  When the Quorum Court Budget Committee was first discussing cutting the utilities, Judge Sanders told them that that was a can of worms they didn’t need to open right now and suggested that they meet with library personnel and discuss the budget cuts.  The Quorum Court did not listen to his advice.  The Judge also mentioned that Batesville has been working for 3 years to move their library.  Renee mentioned the cost of flood insurance if the library moves to Front Street.  It could total $3,000 to $4,000 a year.  John Paul said that the cost had been written into the feasibility study with an expectation that it would be high.  If the~~y~~ flood plains are re-drawn the cost may come down, especially if the railroad tracks are removed.  Judge Sanders said that if the Industrial Park goes through, those tracks will be needed.

Jerry recommended asking Martin to re-write the plans to just include the Burnett Building with an extension to the back and look at new numbers.  Jerry asked John Paul about the space of the current library compared to the space of the Burnett Drug Building and John Paul said they are pretty close in size.  John Paul said he wasn’t sure what the point of just renovating Burnett would be and Jerry said that it would be more open than the current building. John Paul also said that Martin is only a landscape architect so we would need another architect to draw up new plans.  Claire mentioned Colley Burrow, the original architect who worked on the feasibility study.

George Anne said it was quite daunting to think about raising 1.2 million when at first the city was willing to buy the current library building, providing half the money needed for the project.  She said she wished the Judge was on board with this.  She said that people elect officials to vote their conscience but can’t please everybody. Of all the reasons against the project, the flood plain is the only valid one, and that it had been addressed.  Judge Sanders said that the flood plain issue is one that comes up a lot.

Joy asked why she sits on the library board if she isn’t able to make decisions concerning the future of the library.  Judge Sanders responded that when a person wants something it’s hard to see anyone else’s opinion.  He said he didn’t understand how Joy, who wasn’t always 100% for the project, can’t see how people can be against the project.  Joy said it was hard to see how one person could make a decision like this concerning the library.  Judge Sanders countered that he was standing for 17,000 citizens of Cross County with his decision.

Renee said that the trustees needed to stop banging their heads against the wall and decided whether to move forward or not.  The Judge isn’t going to change his mind.  George Anne said that the community needs to know all the details about the project and the history of the library.  Whitney said that the library really needs to talk to Wynne EDC.

Jerry mentioned the need to respond quickly to the Judge’s decision with a statement as well as to educate the community about the issue, and made a motion to appoint George Anne as the author of the library’s response to Judge Sanders decision.  Kitty seconded the motion.  All aye, motion carried.  George Anne said that she will send drafts to all in attendance.

**New Business:**  N/A

**Trustee Comment Period:** N/A

**Adjournment:** Kitty moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11pm.  Jerry seconded the motion.  All aye, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Claire Miller, MLIS

Deputy Director