

MEETING NOTES

Kansas City Public Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting – Strategic Retreat Planning December 14, 2010

The Strategic Retreat Planning Committee of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Tuesday, December 14, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. in Meeting Room A of the Waldo Branch Library at 201 E. 75th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Olivia Dorsey
Jonathan Kemper (ex officio)
Dave Mayta

STAFF PRESENT:

Crosby Kemper III, Chief Executive
Heather Pedersen, Administrative Officer
Debbie Siragusa, Chief Financial Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

William Crowe
Chris Lopez
Sue Mosby, Infinium

J. Kemper called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

J. Kemper stated that the purpose for the meeting was to review what has been discussed so far and establish the direction of the retreat in terms of themes and discussion topics. C. Kemper introduced Sue Mosby of Infinium, who has been contracted as facilitator for the Strategic Retreat, and keynote speaker William Crowe, former University of Kansas Dean of Libraries and past chair of the OCLC.

C. Kemper updated the planning group on the outcome of the earlier phone conference between C. Kemper, J. Kemper and Crowe. He reported that the idea of looking forward to the Library in 2020 was a key to the themes discussed. In particular, they focused on the theme of changes in technology as presenting a chance to think about the future of how the Library provides information, fosters a Community of Readers, and accommodates community needs through physical spaces.

The planning group then discussed ideas for the structure of the retreat and the topics under consideration for inclusion on the agenda. The following summarizes the outcome of this discussion:

General Retreat Structure

- Overall theme: “The Library in 2020”
- 3 main discussion themes:

- 1) Community of Readers
 - 2) Changing Community Needs with Changes in Technology
 - 3) Community and Civic Engagement
- The group agreed that they would like the retreat to be interactive with break-out sessions, with the goal of fostering understanding and creative thinking.
 - The following were recommended for inclusion in the retreat:
 - Recommendations from the Trustees regarding how the Library might best approach synthesis of what is known about the changes in the information world and the needs of the community.
 - An assessment of what Library staff need from the Board in terms of oversight and allocation of resources (e.g. what do insights gained mean for our staffing, for our space, for how we allocate partnerships?).
 - Input from key staff regarding the practical considerations of any strategic plans.
 - Development of a set of goals for the Board to globally reference as it works through monthly agendas and which would be thematically related to where the Library is headed.
 - An agenda with a hard stop time, leaving sufficient time to sum up and assess next steps/follow up.

Discussion Themes

1. Changing Community Needs with Changes in Technology
 - a. The website is increasingly being bypassed as a primary portal by the mobile device. The Library needs to communicate using this platform.
 - b. Changes in technology make information more readily available from a multitude of sources. To stay relevant, libraries need to focus on content and the special value a library adds to the information provided.
 - c. C. Kemper suggested that the retreat materials might include information from the recent presentation by Kathy DeRosa, Global Vice President of the OCLC, regarding a survey that showed how changes in technology are changing the needs and expectations of the population in a national context.
 - d. Crowe stated that he could expand on the OCLC study to include what is going on right now outside of public libraries due to the economy and demographic changes in the United States. He would then distill the information for use in comparing the Kansas City Public Library's activities to what both other large urban public libraries and dissimilar library systems are doing which could inform the Library's process.
2. Community of Readers
 - a. University of Southern Connecticut does a literacy ranking of cities every year, which the Library could use as a model for assessment of community needs regarding literacy. The survey examines the kind of issues that align with the Library's core values as opposed to focusing only on broader economic development issues.
3. Community and Civic Engagement
 - a. Utilizing a survey tool of some kind could help the Library focus on strategic assessment of community needs currently as well as in the future.

- b. Focus not only on what happens in the year 2020 but making the community a better community in 2020 – the Library as a place where people go to become empowered and engaged.

Follow Up

- C. Kemper will provide a document to attendees in advance of the retreat to aid in preparation by summarizing baselines in terms of what is expected to happen internally and the demographics of the library district, library patrons, and of the other metro libraries.
- C. Kemper will send a copy of Kathy DeRosa’s OCLC presentation to the larger planning group for review.
- C. Kemper will send a copy of the University of Southern Connecticut’s literacy ranking.
- Mosby will work with Dorsey and Mayta to pen a draft agenda around the three themes and update C. Kemper on progress.

The meeting adjourned at 4:17 p.m.

Jonathan Kemper

Date