

SHAKER HEIGHTS PUBLIC LIBRARY
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting (Virtual)
March 29, 2021

Virtual Access Information Livestreamed Meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/SHPL-SpecBoard-03-21>

Attendance

Members Present: Mr. Bertsch, Mr. Cicarella, Mr. Gleisser, Ms. Hirsch, Mr. Meinhard,
Dr. Rashid

Members Absent: Ms. Katz

Staff Present: Ms. Brodar, Ms. Ritchey, Ms. Switzer

Mr. Bertsch called the virtual special meeting of the Shaker Heights Public Library Board of Trustees to order at 6:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Bertsch, Mr. Cicarella, Mr. Gleisser, Ms. Hirsch, Mr. Meinhard,
Dr. Rashid

Forward Together – Bertram Woods Branch Discussion

Mr. Riachi reported that in his review of the Bialosky Cleveland and Turner Construction contracts he did not find anything that would affect the ability to begin the Bertram Woods Branch renovation in 2022 instead of 2021. However, the contracts do address potential added cost as a result of the delay. Mr. Riachi noted that both Bialosky and Turner expressed willingness to wait until 2022. Both companies indicated that some added cost is likely, although specifics cannot be determined until dates for design and construction are set.

Mr. Riachi said that in his review of the building assessment and cost estimates, all items are a critical part of a remodeling project. The library cannot pick and choose certain items to do on the short term and others to do later, as they are all integrated into the larger project. Mr. Riachi said that the assessment of the building was done with an overhaul remodeling in mind and the recommendations were based on that premise.

Mr. Bertsch and Ms. Switzer are members of the Forward Together Leadership Team. They recommended that the Board delay the project for six months to allow full participation in the joint master facilities plan. Mr. Bertsch said he appreciated the effort the Forward Together team made to set an aggressive project timeline that minimizes the impact on the Woods project. He noted that members of the community were clear about their expectation that the three taxing authorities collaborate whenever possible.

Ms. Switzer said that a robust community engagement process was a critical part of the planning process and that by delaying Woods the library will benefit from current and comprehensive community input about the branch, in the context of the entire community.

Dr. Rashid asked for more information about the community engagement process. Ms. Switzer said that it would be designed by the consultant team, who have not yet been hired.

Ms. Hirsch said she supported full participation and noted the importance of clear communication about the library's decision-making process.

Mr. Cicarella said that while there are complicating factors for the branch as a result of waiting, the Forward Together process is important for the city. He said that in his opinion this is the most productive project the community has embarked on during his residency in the city and it's important for the library to be a part of it.

Mr. Gleisser said that it's essential that the library participate fully in this collaboration and that he agrees with the reasons for delaying.

Mr. Meinhard said that the project is relatively groundbreaking and the opportunity to be a part of it is of great value to the library. It is critical that all three entities participate fully.

Mr. Cicarella said it is important to be clear that the Board is determined to maintain a second location for library services and the other members agreed.

2021-28 Mr. Gleisser moved and Mr. Meinhard seconded the motion to delay beginning the Bertram Woods Branch Renovation for six months until the Forward Together Joint Master Facilities Plan interim options report is received in December 2021. The Shaker Heights Public Library Board of Trustees affirms their commitment to providing branch library services at or near the current Bertram Woods Branch location.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Bertsch, Mr. Cicarella, Mr. Gleisser, Ms. Hirsch, Mr. Meinhard, Dr. Rashid

Nays: None. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Since there was no further business to discuss, Ms. Hirsch moved and Mr. Cicarella seconded the motion to adjourn the special board meeting at 7:17 p.m. and trustees unanimously agreed.

Michael Bertsch, President

Susan Ritchey, Fiscal Officer

Melissa Hirsch, Secretary