

**Lake Bluff Public Library**  
**Campaign Planning Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 2 PM**  
123 E. Scranton Ave, Lake Bluff, IL, 60044

Notice: This meeting of the Lake Bluff Library Campaign Committee Planning was held without the participants physically present. All participants attended remotely via electronic means. This method is authorized by Executive Order of the Governor (COVID-19 Executive Order No. 5, March 16, 2020).

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Library Director Eric Bailey called the meeting to order at 2:07 pm. Present were Director Eric Bailey, Development Coordinator Melissa Williams, Trustees Kathy Meierhoff, Jon Heintzelman, Janie Jerch, and Library Employee Jillian Chapman.
- 2. Minutes of Meetings:** Jerch moved and Heintzelman seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the April 7 meeting; all voted aye.
- 3. Discussion of Campaign Plans:**
  - a. Update on talks with the Friends of the Library: Bailey, Chapman, and Williams attended the April 23 regular meeting of the Friends to discuss our proposal with their entire group. There was nothing negative or critical from any of the group, but simply a concern about how a merger with the Foundation would affect the Friends' day-to-day operations. Our response is that we want to be flexible and make sure any merger will be advantageous to both organizations. One idea was to have a task force from the Friends that could join with the Foundation to meet more regularly, as we have a major campaign underway. Another is to plan some sort of calendar/news update to be posted regularly on social media. Both parties agree that there are still many details to work out, but all felt very hopeful as we move forward. Two possible deadlines would be making an announcement of a merger along with the opening of the new Stroh Quiet Reading Room, which has been made possible by both organizations (and other donors), and/or during the Friends' fall fund-raiser mailing. Ms. Llack will contact those members not present at Saturday's meeting to discuss our proposal with them, and then get back to Meierhoff for further work on the proposed merger. Also, Bailey, Chapman, and Williams will meet about details of how a newly-formed *Friends of the Library Foundation* could work.
  - b. Update on talks with the History Museum: Meierhoff and Bailey met with McKechney and O'Hara this morning (4/27) to discuss the idea of acquiring the PNC property to house the History Museum. The appraiser has seen the building, as has the environmental study inspector and the building inspector. No reports have yet been received, but the building inspector did say that the building is in need of a new roof.

The current thinking is that the Library, Museum, and Village would all participate in a fundraising effort like the one 20 or so years ago that resulted in the construction of the Wood Building to house the Museum. This fundraising entity would then acquire the property and donate it to the Village, which would take over maintenance of the building and responsibility for the lease with the Museum (currently held by the Library). It would also have free utilities as a Village-owned property. If the Museum moves across the street, the Library would take over the Wood Building and would no longer need to expand to the west. The focus on this fundraising effort would be on the creation of a new Lake Bluff History Museum and Cultural Center, but there would be great advantages to the Community as well. The Museum would get a new, expanded space for displays, meetings, events, research, and storage, the Library would gain valuable and much-needed space for programs and collections, the Village would get a parking lot, and the surrounding neighborhood would happily embrace the renewal of a property that is fast becoming an eyesore.

Bailey will reach out to Joe Huberty about the costs of reconfiguring the Wood Building into Library space (and this is a new enough proposal that not much thought has been given to how we could use it). The PNC building would need quite an extensive renovation to function as a museum and cultural center; those expenses need to be determined as well, and all would be part of the Capital Campaign's goals.

**4. Moving Forward:** The Campaign Planning Committee will meet next on May 11 at 2 pm.

**5. Adjournment:** Jerch moved and Heintzelman seconded a motion to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 3:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janie Jerch