Columbia Library District
Minutes, Meeting of July 16, 2009

Board members present were MaryEllen Sievert, Vice President; Julie Baka; Rosie Gerding, Secretary/Warrant Officer; David McDonald; Tom Richards; and Jacob Thorne. Susan Breyfogle and David Webber were absent. There was a quorum.

Also present were Melissa Carr, Director; Elinor Barrett, Melanie Henry, Pat Kopp, Aimée Leonhard, Jim Smith, and Lauren Williams, DBRL staff.

Call to Order

Sievert called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in the Virginia Young Room of the Columbia Public Library.

Introduction and Welcome of New Board Members

Sievert welcomed new board member Julie Baka.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Minutes

Gerding moved to approve both sets of minutes from June 11, 2009, and Richards seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Director’s Report

Downtown Leadership Council Interim Report – Carr explained that at a recent meeting with City Manager Bill Watkins and Assistant City Manager Tony St. Romaine, she was given this report to share with the CLD Board since the library is a party that might be affected by the leadership council’s recommendations. The only item board members identified as a potential area of concern was the mention of limiting the creation of surface parking lots, but the library’s new parking lot should be completed well before such restrictions are implemented. Carr pointed out that a section of the report highlights the large number of entities in the downtown area that are not on the property tax rolls and therefore do not contribute to the library’s funding. At Baka’s request, Carr said she would mention her concern that public transportation is not addressed in the report.

Quarterly Building Fund Report

There were no questions about the Building Fund report.
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Smith noted that page one of the report shows a balance of $12,084. He would like to set aside $1,000 to pay for a final arbitrage report to demonstrate to the IRS that the library does not owe any arbitrage. He said that the remaining $11,084 could be transferred to the Debt Service Fund if the board directed him to do so. In response to a question, Smith said that he would request the arbitrage report this month if the board decided to close the fund.

Completion of the Capital Project Fund

ACTION: Richards moved, Gerding seconded, to close the Capital Project Fund and transfer the remaining balance to the Debt Service Fund. The motion passed.

Carr left the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Citizen’s Art Advisory Committee Recommendation

Barrett briefly explained the role of the Art Advisory Committee and introduced Leonhard as the staff member who manages the library’s art collection, including the many works the Columbia Art League (CAL) donated to the library. Leonhard showed the board two paintings by CAL member Alice de Boton and reported that at the Art Advisory Committee meeting, members of that committee discussed the strength of these works in terms of artist’s life story and the painting technique. She explained that the goal of the CAL collection is to showcase a wide variety of media, and the library’s collection contains no other works created with the encaustic technique, which uses melted wax. Leonhard shared the artist’s life story, saying she was born in Palestine 102 years ago, and her life and work have been impacted by both world wars and the various countries in which she has lived, including Egypt, France, and Mexico. She has lived in Columbia since the late 1980s to be near her daughter. Leonhard said that the committee considered three paintings, but the artist’s daughter has now indicated that the donation would be limited to one or two paintings. Barrett reported that the Art Advisory Committee recommended acceptance of this gift. Leonhard added that should the board accept the paintings, they would likely be displayed on the second floor with a lengthy text panel explaining both the artist’s history and the encaustic technique.

ACTION: Gerding moved to accept the Art Advisory Committee’s recommendation and accept the gift of one or two Alice de Boton paintings. Baka seconded the motion.

In response to a question regarding the library’s limited ability to display and store artwork, Barrett explained that this is the first proposed donation of artwork in a couple of years and that when the library accepted the CAL donation, it was with the knowledge that eventually it would deaccession some pieces when storage became an issue. Leonhard added that the library only accepts unrestricted gifts so that it can lend or
deaccession pieces as desired. Barrett shared with the board some programming possibilities related to the de Boton pieces. The motion passed.

**Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Miscellaneous**

There were no miscellaneous items to discuss.

**Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Adjournment**

McDonald moved, Gerding seconded, to adjourn. The motion passed and Sievert adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Lauren Williams, DBRL staff.

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Board Secretary