Board members present were David Webber, President; Julie Baka; Philip Harrison; Jim Jones; Tom Richards and MaryEllen Sievert. Susan Breyfogle, Rosie Gerding and David McDonald were absent.

Also present were Susan Daly, Patricia Powell, Jessica Robinson and Lyle Johnson of the Boone County Library District Board of Trustees; Wes Bolton of Allstate Engineering; DBRL Director Melissa Carr; and DBRL staff members Elinor Barrett, Amanda Burke, Patrick Finney, Melanie Henry, Pat Kopp, Patricia Miller, Russ Niermeyer and Jim Smith.

**Call to Order, Roll Call and Determination of Quorum**

Webber called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m. in the Virginia Young Room of the Columbia Public Library. A quorum of members was present.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public were present.

**Introductions**

Carr introduced Circulation Manager Patrick Finney, who began work at DBRL on June 6. She reintroduced Patricia Miller, Adult Services Librarian, for those who were not in attendance at the May board meeting. Carr welcomed Russ Niermeyer, DBRL Facilities Manager, and Wes Bolton, noting that Bolton was present to answer engineering-related questions during the discussion of CPL’s south parking lot.

**Approval of Minutes**

Webber asked for changes or corrections to the minutes from March 10, 2011. Hearing none, he declared the minutes approved as written.

**Financial Reports**

Webber asked for comments or questions on the financial reports of the Debt Service Fund and the Building Fund. There were no comments or questions from those in attendance.

**Committee Reports**

Nomination Committee – Baka announced the slate of officers developed by the committee for 2011-12:

- President: Rosie Gerding
- Vice President: Julie Baka
- Secretary/Warrant Officer: Jim Jones

Webber asked for further nominations from the floor and there were none.

**New Business**

CPL South Parking Lot – Carr stated that, during the May DBRL Board Meeting, the Trustees asked if safety and traffic-flow improvements can or should be made at the same time as the repairs and
any resurfacing work that staff proposed to accomplish in 2011. DBRL President Jessica Robinson has asked the CLD Board to discuss options and suggest a course of action to the Regional Board.

Daly, Robinson and Johnson entered the meeting.

Bolton described the changes that had been made to the lot since it was originally constructed, including the elimination of the 10-minute parking spaces, adding pavers and planters at the bottom of the ramp, adding signs that request patrons to pull forward to the bottom of the ramp, changing the curve of the exit drive curb and narrowing the most easterly parking aisle. Flags were also added to call attention to the north parking lot. He has not done a formal study, but hears anecdotally that flow is better and more people are using the ramp than prior to making those changes.

Daly noted and Jones agreed that people disregard the sign at the bottom of the stairs asking patrons to pull forward to the designated drop-off point.

The Trustees discussed options including removing the stairs, making traffic one-way through the lot and widening the exit. Bolton noted that City’s Storm Water Ordinance requires that when concrete is torn out or added to a site, water quality treatment is required and this adds cost to projects.

Webber asked if there are less disruptive and costly options for improving safety and traffic-flow, such as changing the signage in the lot.

Richards entered the meeting.

Bolton responded that the placement and number of signs must be considered carefully, as they can obscure pedestrians and distract drivers from watching for pedestrians. Harrison suggested that the wording on the current “pull forward” sign should be made explicit as to where patrons should stop.

Daly asked how the public might respond if the stairs were removed. Carr stated that, in the past, the library received complaints when the stairs had been closed for repairs. Johnson noted that patrons will become accustomed to a new parking situation in a few weeks or months, which is a relatively short time period.

Barrett stated that she has received feedback from some people with disabilities who feel crowded or rushed by able-bodied people on the ramp. The Trustees discussed widening the ramp and moving the stairs half-way down the ramp. Sievert asked if the library would still have the required number of parking spaces if the ramp were widened, eliminating the current, north-facing spaces. Barrett noted that city officials had recommended that area for handicapped parking. Bolton added that, in general, handicapped parking need to be as close to the entrance as possible. Additionally, handicapped parking spaces must meet certain slope restrictions.

Powell asked if the entrance and exit could be switched. Baka noted that if patrons drove around the lot clock-wise, they would arrive at the ramp entrance before the stairs, and any back-up that occurred would cause a queue within the lot rather than on Garth. Bolton noted that that option would involve reconfiguring the current exit so delivery trucks could access the lot, as well as complying with the Storm Water Ordinance.

Robinson asked why the parking lot is curved. Barrett stated that the green areas in the corners are used to meet storm water drainage and landscaping requirements. Bolton noted that the shape is also reflective of the adjacent building’s footprint. Carr added that the shape doesn’t impinge on the library’s neighbors as much as a lot with parking spaces that extend to all edges.
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Jones asked if using porous pavements would mitigate any of the City Storm Water Ordinance requirements. Bolton said that water quality credit is given for using porous pavements, although it is expensive because a gravel basin often must be installed beneath the pavement due to the clay content of local soil.

Richards asked why this topic is being discussed again just three or four years after lengthy discussions by the Board and the implementation of some improvements. He asked if there had been an incident in the lot. Webber said there had been no incident, but the Trustees at the previous meeting felt that if patrons were going to be disrupted by the lot resurfacing already, perhaps additional safety and traffic-flow improvements could be made at the same time.

The Trustees and staff discussed the use of a parking lot attendant and a pull-out area for book drops and patron drop-offs.

Richards noted that money has been expended on the stairs twice, so taxpayers may not be happy about the stairs being closed or torn out.

Baka asked if the lot’s surface is so bad that the concrete must be torn out and re-poured. Smith responded that ESS Engineering will offer several options for action on the lot, from scraping and filling to completely tearing out the old concrete. Johnson asked if the cracking is going to be a problem that must be addressed periodically because of the type of soil on this property, and Smith said that it may be, but staff and consultants will continue to look at new materials to best address the situation.

The Trustees discussed installing a canopy to draw attention to the ramp entrance. Richards noted that when this idea was discussed previously, the canopy was conceived as a concrete slab with heavy footings, which would have matched the canopy over the library entrance but also would have been costly. He inquired if other materials might be available. Barrett noted that structural soundness would be a priority.

Sievert asked if the engineers could provide information on the safest traffic pattern for the lot.

Bolton noted that a “truck mounting island” could be installed in front of the stairs to narrow the current entrance for cars but still allow delivery vehicles to drive straight to the dock.

ACTION: Sievert moved, Jones seconded requesting Allstate Engineering to return with a list of potential safety and traffic-flow improvements, including estimated costs.

Carr stated that the list of options should be fairly short. Bolton noted that providing details on options to prevent cars lined up on Garth and to prevent pedestrian/vehicle incidents will be challenging. Robinson suggested the motion include delaying resurfacing until the Board receives Allstate Engineering’s list of options and chooses a plan of action. Sievert and Jones agreed to amend the motion to include delaying resurfacing and instructing Allstate Engineering to provide information on just a short list of options.

ACTION: The amended motion was to request Allstate Engineering to return with a short list of potential safety and traffic-flow improvements, including estimated costs. The parking lot resurfacing project will be postponed until a course of action is decided based on Allstate Engineering’s report. The motion passed.

Old Business

There was no old business.
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Miscellaneous
There was no miscellaneous business.

Public Comment
No members of the public were present.

Adjournment
Hearing no further business, Webber adjourned the meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Amanda Burke, DBRL Staff

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Rosie Gerding, Board Secretary