

COMMITTEE NOTES

**Ad Hoc Committee Meeting on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.
Kansas City Public Library
Board of Trustees
August 6, 2010**

The Ad Hoc Committee on Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public Library, pursuant to official notification, met Friday, August 6, 2010 at 3:30 p.m. at the Central Library, 14 West 10th Street, Kansas City, Missouri.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Olivia Dorsey (Chair)
Rose Marie Bell
Leon Dixon
Billie Howard Barnes
Jonathan Kemper (ex officio)

STAFF PRESENT:

Crosby Kemper III, Chief Executive
Reed Beebe, Administrative Officer
Dorothy Elliott, Deputy Executive Director for Branch and Outreach Services
Dean Galloway, Operations Event Manager
Cheptoo Kositany-Buckner, Deputy Director

OTHERS PRESENT:

Delia Gillis, Ph.D., Trustee- Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.
Jasmine Gillis
Denise Gilmore, Trustee- Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.
Christopher Leitch, Trustee- Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.
Barbara Peterson, Chairperson- Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc.

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

Dorsey asked that the agenda be reordered so that Peterson could report on Juneteenth activities at the Black Archives of Mid-America, Inc. ("Black Archives") as the first item of business. Peterson reported that the Black Archives sponsored a presentation by Deborah Foster Green, a screening of the documentary *Negroes to Hire* with facilitated group discussions, goal setting workshops for young people, and self-guided tours of the Black Archives Building as part of its Juneteenth activities. Peterson reported that the events were well attended.

C. Kemper discussed the Black Archives fundraising efforts. He reported that the state tax credits for the Black Archives are being delayed because of the State of Missouri's budget issues, and that the State of Missouri may delay some current tax credit proposals into next year for budgetary issues. However, the Black Archives does have the support of Governor Nixon, and Congressman Cleaver indicated that he was willing to help with the tax credit process if needed, and C. Kemper stated that the Black Archives may not be impacted by this delay. Peterson stated that the City of Kansas City also provides funds for the Black Archives, and that the Black Archives has a firm commitment from the City Manager to continue funding. C. Kemper stated that Congressman Cleaver is also interested in providing federal funding to the Black Archives, although federal funding may not be available until after the 2010 elections. Also, Bank of America has expressed an interest in giving funds to the Black Archives.

Peterson stated that the uncertainty of the Black Archives' funding has impacted the search for an executive director. Although the job description for the executive director is complete, the job description has not been publicly posted.

J. Kemper arrived at 3:56 p.m.

C. Kemper stated that Congressman Cleaver suggested that the Library might consider a tax levy to be approved by the voters for the benefit of both the Black Archives and the Library.

J. Kemper asked if any thought was given to involving the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center ("Watkins Center") with the Black Archives' mission to maximize the resources of both institutions. C. Kemper stated that conversations between the two organizations on this issue have occurred.

Dorsey asked if the Black Archives has considered hiring a building manager for its building. Peterson stated that the Black Archives' board of trustees is looking into the possibility of hiring a building manager.

Kositany-Buckner discussed the proposed interior design for the Black Archives. The Black Archives' interior would have exhibits that highlight the Alvin Ailey collection, the Archives, and the African American community's history in Kansas City. She indicated that the budget for both the furniture and interior work was \$200,000.

Leitch stated that the Black Archives' Collection Management Committee has completed its review and inventory of the Black Archives' collection.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.



Olivia Dorsey, Chair
Ad Hoc Committee

8-24-10

Date