

Draft Minutes

Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board

April 16, 2010

**Archives Reading Room - 2nd Floor
Michigan Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo Street, Lansing**

The April 16, 2010, meeting of the Michigan Center for Innovation and Reinvention Board (MCIR) was held at the Michigan Historical Center, Archives Reading Room, Lansing. Board members in attendance were Ron Boji, Gregory Eaton, Mike Moore, Mike Smith, Bob Trezise and Kate Pew Wolters. Board member Nancy Skowronski joined the meeting via telephone conference. Staff in attendance were Mark Hoffman, Sandra Clark, Nancy Robertson, Carol Wolenberg and Michelle Davis.

Vice-Chairperson Mike Smith called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Approval of Agenda and Minutes

Mike Moore moved to approve the agenda without changes, supported by Bob Trezise. Motion unanimously carried.

Following discussion of the draft minutes Nancy Skowronski made a motion to approve the minutes without corrections, supported by Mike Moore. Motion unanimously carried.

Presentation Concerning Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped

Sue Chinault gave an overview of the Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped (handout distributed to board). The Library of Congress provides Braille and audio books and the necessary playback equipment; the state and sub-regional libraries use state and local funds to loan the materials to those who need them. The state program is supported by General Fund appropriation; sub-regional libraries are self-funded and have some state aid. Reduced local funding is causing the closing of some regional facilities. Their work must be picked up by the state program.

Ms. Chinault listed the facility needs of the program, including public transportation access for patrons, proximity to a traditional library, storage for 35,000 linear feet of materials, and ease of shipping and receiving. She noted that their current location was designed to meet these needs and does so well. She also called attention to the cost of moving such collections.

Mike Moore asked about the use of digital recording. Ms. Chinault responded that a national survey of clientele readiness found that only 10% of the clientele is currently using digital equipment. Ron Boji noted that the services appear to be in the right place.

Work Group Reports and Discussion

Three work groups met prior to the Board meeting.

Mike Moore led the reporting from the Schools and Education work group. That group noted that is important to think of the building as a whole. It urged consideration of potential community and general public use. Board discussion focused on the priority of developing new programs in order to raise funds. The Board requested statistics and brief descriptive materials on current building use, including the number of school groups visiting, the number and kind of programs, and circulation numbers.

Mike Smith led the reporting from the Visions and Goals for the Building and the Collections work groups. Those groups concluded that it is important to maintain the function of the building as a historical center. Among the ideas explored were: the Capital Area District Library moving into the second and third floors of the library, the Library of Michigan becoming a selective rather than a regional federal repository, establishing fee structures, and bridge funds to subsidize future use of the building.

The board noted the overlap in the subject matter of the three groups and after discussion, concluded that it would meet as a committee of the whole for the remainder of its discussions.

The board discussed whether or not it should attempt to do a deep analysis of the potential for expense reduction and concluded that this was not where it could make its best impact. It also discussed how much it should try to enter into discussion about the future of the Libraries collections, concluding that this too was an area where it should not spend a great deal of its time.

Discussion of where the report could make its strongest impact focused on the long-term vision for the use of building and ideas for raising revenue. Members noted the need to focus preserving and maximizing benefits to the public in order to get the best use from the building. They also spoke about effective delivery of services.

In response to Board questions, Deborah Roberts spoke about the building's recent repairs and the State Building Authority, which she directs in the Department of Technology, Management and Budget. The \$11 million spent on renovations to the building was funded by commercial paper but needs to be converted to bonds in the near future. Once that is done, the only purposes for which the building can be used will be those associated with the state, state universities, and community colleges. The Board asked Ms. Roberts to give it a written summary of the impact of SBA bond financing.

The Board also requested information on the revenue gap effecting the building and the programs it houses.

Bob Trezise commented on the broad charge presented to the board and the difficulty of understanding the complete task at hand. He summarized that it is understood by all that the Library has to do what is has to do. That makes maximizing the use of the building the priority.

The board agreed that it has two main charges: ideas for raising revenue and ideas for what to do with the second and third floors of the west wing of the building.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Vice-Chairperson Mike Smith opened the meeting to the public for comments.

Public Appearances

JoAnn Harvey, Mid Michigan Genealogists - The *City Pulse*, a free weekly newspaper about Lansing illustrates the other things going on in Lansing that will compete to provide available space for new uses. Renewal millages for the Capital Area District Library and the Potter Park Zoo are both on the ballot. Things should continue as they are; she would be willing to pay a use fee.

Fred Wurtzl, general public – There was a grand vision for the building’s future when it opened. As adults it is important to preserve pieces of history for our children’s and grandchildren’s futures. It is our responsibility to educate them about this state. It is very difficult to watch things you care passionately about being destroyed.

Jim Moore – The Library of Michigan has served him and his wife well. They have been able to learn about computers on an individual basis. The service SBPH provides is beneficial to the citizens of Michigan. It is important for Services for the Blind and Physically Handicapped to stay in the building, especially with all of the digital changes taking place.

George Illingsworth – Anyone who needs to know about Michigan can find the answers right here at the Library of Michigan, and it needs to stay here.

Elaine Davis – Question posed to Nancy Robertson: Where is this money coming from to pay for moving the collections. Ms. Robertson responded that the Library is building these costs into its planning.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting

The next two meetings Are:

Tuesday, May 4, 2010, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Archives Reading Room

Wednesday, May 19, 2010, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., Archives Reading Room

Agenda items for May 4, 2010:

Building use

Revenue generating ideas

Discussion of information from the facilitated group sessions

Kate Pew Wolters made a motion to adjourn the MCIR Board meeting at 12:00 p.m., supported by Gregory Eaton. Motion unanimously carried.