

MINUTES
LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
April 10, 2008
(approved May 15, 2008)

The Board of Trustees of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District met in regular session in the West Las Vegas Library, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2008.

Present: Board: V. Davis-Hoggard L. Overstreet
F. Sponer E. Sanchez (via phone)
A. Arthurholtz A. Aguirre
K. Benavidez K. Carter
J. Costello

Counsel: G. Welt

Staff: Daniel L. Walters, Executive Director
Numerous Staff

Guests: Thomas Schoeman, CEO, JMA Architecture Studios
Michael Crowe, Partner, JMA Architecture Studios
Mario Reyes, Senior Project Designer, JMA Architecture Studios

V. Davis-Hoggard, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Roll Call All members listed above represent a quorum. Trustee Sanchez called in at 6:29 p.m.

Agenda Trustee Aguirre moved to approve the Agenda as proposed. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Executive Session – Possible briefing by Counsel regarding pending litigation. (Item III.) Chair Davis-Hoggard moved that the Board adjourn into Executive Session for a briefing by Counsel on pending litigation. Chair Davis-Hoggard indicated it was to be a closed session and no action would be taken. There was no opposition and the motion passed. The meeting was closed at 6:05 p.m.

Chair Davis-Hoggard moved that the Board resume. There was no opposition and the motion carried. The meeting resumed at 6:26 p.m.

Approval of Proposed Minutes Finance and Audit Committee Meeting, March 5, 2008 and Regular Session, March 13, 2008. (Item IV.A-B.) Trustee Barron moved to approve the Minutes of the Finance and Audit Committee Meeting held March 5, 2008. There was no opposition from Committee members and the motion carried.

Trustee Aguirre moved to approve the Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting held March 13, 2008. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Chair's Report (Item V.) Chair Davis-Hoggard reported that she attended the Public Library Association meeting and was very impressed with the advocacy preconference which was run by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation instead of ALTA, as has been done in the past. Ms. Davis-Hoggard said

the presentation was professional and the facilitators were outstanding. She also said several people who were there would be able to share information with staff that would be helpful in speeding along the District's outreach efforts.

Chair Davis-Hoggard announced that Trustee Benavidez would be getting married on June 8 and therefore would be excused from attending the June 12 Board meeting.

**Executive Director's
Report
(Item VI.A.)**

Executive Director Walters reported that he attended both the Las Vegas City Council and Clark County Commission meetings to promote the Reading Las Vegas program and received proclamations at both meetings. At each meeting, staff handed out bags promoting the Reading Las Vegas program, funded by the Friends of the Southern Nevada Libraries as well as copies of *The Great Gatsby*, by F. Scott Fitzgerald, funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the featured book for the Reading Las Vegas program. He noted that each Trustee received a bag and copy of the book as well.

Mr. Walters announced that Bud Pierce, the District's Human Resources Director, has accepted a position with UNLV as the Associate Vice President for Human Resources. Walters acknowledged Mr. Pierce's 11 years with the District and expressed his personal appreciation for Pierce's leadership and commitment to quality HR management. Pierce worked on many programs, including implementing continuing education programs for District staff using grants from the State Library and UNLV. Walters led a round of applause for Pierce.

Mr. Walters advised Trustees that Jennifer Schember, Community Outreach and Adult Services Coordinator, had received the "Movers and Shakers" award from *Library Journal* for her community programming work. Ms. Schember is the second District recipient of the award.

Mr. Walters also noted that each Trustee received a draft copy of a report prepared by Steve Rice, General Services Director, regarding the District's facilities. The report provided information on each District facility, including acreage, building size, amenities, and whether the site is owned or leased. Walters noted that the idea to put together the information came from Trustee Costello at the previous Board meeting and will be included in the final *Strategic Plan* as an inventory of District facilities. Walters asked that the Trustees review the report and he welcomed suggestions for additions. Walters thanked Mr. Rice and his staff for their work.

Chair Davis-Hoggard thanked Mr. Pierce for his hard work. She is especially pleased with the diversity progress and wished him well. Ms. Davis-Hoggard commented that Pierce would miss the District, especially when he started attending the Regent's meetings! She also noted that among his achievements, Pierce was president of the Southern Nevada Human Resources Association, a local branch of a national organization.

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Chair Davis-Hoggard asked that Trustees call Mr. Walters if they have any questions about the Library Reports.

Chair Davis-Hoggard moved to accept Reports VI.A. 1-6. There was no opposition and the reports were accepted.

Public Services and Security Report (Item VI.A.1.)

Accepted.

Business Office Report (Item VI.A.2.)

Accepted.

Human Resources Report (Item VI.A.3.)

Accepted.

Technology Report (Item VI.A.4.)

Accepted.

General Services Report (Item VI.A.5.)

Accepted.

Marketing Report (Item VI.A.6.)

Accepted.

Unfinished Business (Item VII.)

None.

Consent Agenda

Trustee Overstreet moved to approved the Consent Agenda which consisted of the following items, in its entirety:

1. Discussion and possible Board action to approve contract terms for Library Automation Services provided to Boulder City Public Library, Nellis AFB Library, Springs Preserve Library and North Las Vegas Library.

Authorize the Executive Director to execute new contracts for library automation services with Boulder City Public Library, Nellis AFB Library, Springs Preserve Library and the North Las Vegas Library District subject to review by Counsel.

Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Clark County for FY 2008-2009 contract terms for Library Services provided to Clark County for the Clark County Detention Center.

Authorize the Executive Director to execute an at-will employment agreement for Floresto L. Cabias for the position of Assistant Finance Director effective April 21, 2008 through April 20, 2013 subject to the review and approval of legal counsel.

2. Discussion and possible Board action to approve contract terms for Library Services provided to Clark

There was no objection and the motion carried.

**County for the Clark
County Detention
Center.**

**3. Discussion and
possible Board
action regarding the
employment
agreement for
Floresto L. Cabias,
Assistant Finance
Director.
(Item VIII.A.1-3.)**

**Discussion and
possible Board
action regarding
approval of the
schematic design
phase for the
Compass Point
Library and Service
Center.
(Item VIII.B.)**

General Services Director Steve Rice reported that staff has been working with JMA Architecture Studios (JMA) for the last three months on the schematic design proposal for the Compass Point Library and Service Center. He introduced Tom Schoeman, CEO, Michael Crowe, Partner and Project Director and Mario Reyes, Senior Project Designer to present the proposal.

Mr. Schoeman began by describing the site which covers 13.35 acres. It is located close to the northwest intersection of Rainbow and Windmill. To the north is Santoli Avenue. He described the current and future development around the site. The primary access road to the site is Windmill Lane.

Mr. Schoeman said JMA and staff made a decision to combine the service center and library into one building in the proposed plan. The west side of the building will be used for the 41,478-square-foot library (26,564 square feet of finished space and 14,914 square feet of shelled space for future expansion); the center of the building will be occupied by a 9,664-square-foot auditorium with approximately 305 seats as well as a 4,337-square-foot common lobby/entry. The east side of the building will house the 87,330-square-foot two-level service center for a total building size of 142,809 square feet. The library side is closer to the neighborhood's residential development while the service center, loading dock, District vehicle parking and associated services are situated closer to the neighborhood's commercial development.

At the central lobby entrance there would be space for patron drop-offs, ADA-accessible parking and book returns. Ample parking space has been planned for patrons of the library and auditorium guests, staff and service center visitors with a total of 635 spaces (541 are required) including ADA-accessible spaces.

Mr. Schoeman then described the proposed floor plans for the library and service center spaces. From the central entry area, patrons have easy access to the auditorium, as well as the community meeting room, café, gallery and bookstore in the library space. The automated book return is also located close to the entrance. The computer labs

and study room are located at the back of the library space with a large open space for the library proper.

Mr. Schoeman continued to say that visitors to the service center and job applicants will also enter through the central entry area but turn in the opposite direction from library patrons to enter the service center which will house the District administrative spaces. In the proposed design for the service center, the first floor is mainly occupied by storage, staging, sorting and workroom areas and would house the IT, Support Services, General Services, TPS/Gallery Services, Collection Development and Courier departments in an open plan environment. The second floor of the service center would house HR, a meeting complex, Public Services Administration, the Virtual Library Marketing/PR/Graphics and Executive Administration. Again, many departmental spaces would use an open plan environment.

Mr. Schoeman then discussed elevations, sections and showed the sun angles on the proposed plan. The placement of the building with the longer north and south elevations was deliberate, due to a decision to allow more daylight into the building and create a more sustainable design. Indirect daylight will also come in through the ceiling, as the building will feature clerestories where the bays of the building are deeper.

Mr. Schoeman then showed several renderings of the central entry interior and exterior and an aerial view of the overall project showing the extensive windows on the north and south sides of the building and the clerestory lights to allow indirect light from above. He said the materials he is proposing to use are mainly stone, glass and metal panels. The central entry will feature a "compass point" icon.

Trustee Overstreet asked whether a ticket booth was part of the auditorium design. Mr. Schoeman said it was not but could be added as part of design development. Overstreet complimented JMA on a great presentation and a beautiful concept.

Chair Davis-Hoggard asked if the proposed design was for a green building. Mr. Schoeman said that the minimum LEED certification for the proposed plan would be a Silver designation, but depending on design changes, the plan could achieve a Gold designation.

Trustee Costello asked if there were any significant design changes to the proposed Compass Point Library from the design used for the Centennial Hills Library. Mr. Schoeman said the Compass Point Library would have essentially the same operation plan and size as the Centennial Hills Library.

Trustee Costello asked about the use of brand name designs for the various building components as shown in the Harris Consulting Engineers Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical Narrative and whether this would allow for competitive bidding. Mr. Schoeman replied that what was meant was a quality standard and that all components of the

building would be competitively bid with the requirement that the quality must meet what is called for in the design.

Trustee Costello questioned the need for a fuel depot and truck wash for District vehicles as shown in the proposed design. Mr. Rice discussed the State of Nevada requirements for alternative fuel vehicles. Currently, District vehicles must utilize only a few service stations across the valley in order to fill up with the alternative fuel. Having the fuel depot at the same location as the District's vehicles would save both time and money. The proposed design included the fuel depot area while Rice's department investigates whether the District will be able to obtain the required alternative fuel for the proposed site. Sales of some alternative fuel are restricted to particular months and some alternative fuel may not be able to be obtained in the quantities able to be stored at the proposed site. Costello said he understood the thought behind the idea for the fuel depot and truck washing area, but did not agree with it.

Trustee Costello noted that it looked as though several trucks would be able to be accommodated in the loading dock area, but was concerned that large semi-trailers would not be able to fit in the loading dock area. Mr. Walters said that the District receives most of its materials via smaller trucks and the vendors who supply the District, in many cases, also handle the cataloguing. The vendors know where the materials are going and can send a shipment directly to the specified branch. He said that, occasionally, an exhibit or other material would arrive using a semi but could be accommodated in the space in the center. Walters said that JMA would confirm the space capacity for the loading dock area.

Trustee Costello asked about the access via Santoli Avenue through a residential and school area and the left turn capability from only one of the exits out of the parking lot onto Windmill Lane. He also was concerned about the locations of the trash bins for Republic Services and custodial access.

Trustee Costello questioned the amount of contingencies JMA built into the budget and whether they were usual for a project of this type. Mr. Schoeman replied that, while he might use a lower contingency for a private-sector project, for a public agency he feels more comfortable with the higher contingency amounts.

Trustee Costello then questioned the number of trees being proposed in the landscaping design, especially those on the west side of the parking lot. Mr. Schoeman said that the trees on the west side are required to serve as a buffer between the library site and the residential site immediately to the west. The trees in the parking lot serve to eliminate the "heat island" effect by creating shade and making it more comfortable for people walking through the parking lot. Schoeman said that all trees used would be drought-tolerant.

Trustee Costello then asked about the proposed furnishings budget and whether existing furnishings would be moved from the spaces being

vacated. Mr. Walters said that the limited amount of open plan furnishings currently in use would be moved if possible. He added that the whole project would undergo a value engineering process during the design development phase as well as utilizing the services of a construction project manager to double check budget assumptions at each stage of the project. The goal is to complete the project with the highest values at the lowest cost.

Trustee Costello asked about the size of the space being vacated as compared to the size of the proposed service center. Mr. Walters said he would provide the information to Trustee Costello but advised the Board that the space currently utilized by staff was shoehorned all over the District in space that was available. Currently, most of the space used by District staff had not been planned for the most efficient use. Mr. Rice added that the service center space went through a programming phase where staff planned out their needs through 2015 along with suggestions for more efficient layouts than they may currently have. Costello then asked whether the proposed space was only designed for five years. Rice said that it was very difficult to plan out staffing requirements past five years so that was that was the maximum time used for planning purposes.

In conclusion, Mr. Schoeman said that JMA was within the schematic design budget and felt their conservative markup approach made him comfortable that the proposed project could be delivered within the proposed budget of \$55,156,015.

Chair Davis-Hoggard thanked Mr. Schoeman and the JMA staff for their work and moved to approve the schematic design phase for the Compass Point Library and Service Center and to authorize the Executive Director to have JMA Architecture Studios proceed with design development. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Discussion and possible Board action regarding the FY 2008-2009 Tentative Budget submittal to the Department of Taxation and preparation for the May 15, 2008 budget hearing. (Item VIII.C.)

Finance and Audit Committee Chair Aldo Aguirre reported on the Committee meeting just prior to the Board meeting to discuss the FY 2008-2009 Tentative Budget submittal to the Department of Taxation and preparation for the May 15, 2008 budget hearing. Aguirre said that CFO Fred James explained the budget proposal very carefully. Committee members felt the proposal was acceptable. Aguirre asked Mr. Walters to talk about some areas of discussion from the meeting.

Mr. Walters noted that staff was asked to provide further information on tax abatement, as well as some other areas of inquiry. Staff will provide more information in preparation for the budget hearing, scheduled for the May 15 Board meeting.

The item is presented for Board discussion only.

Discussion and possible Board action to amend the Library Rules of Conduct to include

Deputy Director Morss introduced the item to amend the Library Rules of Conduct (Rules). The Rules help staff monitor the behavior of District patrons. They are rules and expectations that staff believe patrons should follow when they use the District's libraries.

prohibiting the use of cell phones in branch libraries. (Item.VIII.D.)

Mr. Morss said that due to recent events in District branches he recommended that the Rules be revised to prohibit cell phone use in District libraries.

Mr. Morss reported that over the past several years the use of cell phones in District libraries has become an increasing problem that staff has had to handle. The number of cell phone users has increased significantly not only in libraries but throughout the community as a whole. Though District branches are not the type of libraries from the past where absolute silence is demanded, staff do try to curtail any unnecessary noise that could disturb patrons who are reading, doing homework, or trying to enjoy one of the District's many programs that are held in the branches.

Mr. Morss said that recently cell phone users have become a problem causing disruptions to other patrons in the branches by taking calls in our computer centers, while programs are in progress, and even at service desks as staff are attempting to offer assistance. The recommendation is proposed to help curtail the increasing problem.

Mr. Morss also recommended, if the change were adopted, that District libraries have signage on the front door and at various points in the library stating that the library is a "cell phone free zone".

Trustee Benavidez said she has been advised by staff several times when using her cell phone so staff was doing their job. Chair Davis-Hoggard said she thought cell phones were already prohibited.

Trustee Barron moved to amend the Library Rules of Conduct to include prohibiting the use of cell phones in branch libraries.

Counsel Welt confirmed that the change would also cover cell phone use in District meetings rooms and auditoriums. Mr. Walters advised Trustees that the change would not mean patrons using cell phones would be immediately removed from the branch or theater, simply that staff and security would be able to advise patrons of the requirement to turn off their phones or to put their phones on vibrate while in the facility and that they must go outside to talk on their phones.

Trustee Aguirre noted that some libraries had dedicated spaces for using cell phones and asked if those spaces would be removed. Mr. Walters said that the spaces, which are not in all libraries, would be removed and that one of the purposes of the change was to standardize District practice.

There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Discussion and possible Board action regarding the Bylaws Committee's proposed

Trustee Overstreet noted that, as provided by the Bylaws, these proposed amendments were duly posted for Trustee consideration at the March 13, 2008 meeting.

amendments to the Board's Bylaws. (Item VIII.E.)

Trustee Overstreet moved to approve the proposed amendments to the Board's Bylaws.

Counsel Welt advised Trustees of a proposed ordinance from the Clark County Commission, though he said it would only have a tertiary effect on the Board. The proposed item would affect people appointed by the Clark County Commission to Boards and Commissions. If a Board or Commission member appointed by the County misses three regular meetings in one calendar year without an excused absence, the member would be removed by the Commission. Welt said that the definition of an excused or unexcused absence does not seem to be very well explained in the proposed ordinance. An excused absence was defined as saying the member called in and an unexcused absence was defined as saying the member did not. Welt said it would affect the District only insofar as the Board minutes would be required to show whether an absence was excused or unexcused with a running total through the course of the year. While the item has not yet been voted upon, Welt said that the proposed change is innocuous so it probably would pass when it comes up for a vote.

Chair Davis-Hoggard suggested that if Trustees have any comments or concerns, the item is scheduled for the May 6 County Commission meeting.

Trustee Barron asked if the proposed ordinance stipulated absences at three consecutive meetings. Mr. Welt said that the proposed ordinance covered excused or unexcused absences during the course of the year. He suggested that Trustees who cannot come to the Board meeting for whatever reason make sure they call in so they would receive an excused absence.

Chair Davis-Hoggard said there would probably be some changes as the proposed ordinance in its current form is somewhat nebulous.

There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Discussion and possible Board action regarding a report from Counsel pertaining to insupportable unilateral contract demands and cessation of negotiations by the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries (FOSNL), suggestions for continuing operations of the bookstores by the

Counsel Welt reported that he had been directed by the Board and the Executive Director to negotiate a contract with the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries (FOSNL) attorney, Mr. Barry Levinson. The direction was to write a contract that would be neutral in that it would not favor one side over the other, confirm past practices and would show appropriate fiscal responsibility. Welt drew upon examples of other libraries' contracts with Friends groups across the country as well as the American Library Association to create his proposed draft contract.

Mr. Welt said that last week Mr. Levinson sent him an "all or nothing" contract and a letter which said the FOSNL had directed him to end negotiations. Welt said the Board could not sign the contract as proposed as it was fiscally irresponsible. He reported this to Chair Davis-Hoggard, Trustees Overstreet and Costello and the Executive Director. The group directed him to attempt to resolve the impasse, even though the FOSNL said that negotiations were done. Welt said he sent a letter on Friday, April 4 to Mr. Levinson to ask that negotiations

**volunteers and
directions to
Counsel to try to
resolve the impasse.
(Item VIII.F.)**

be continued. In the letter, Welt also suggested that the bookstores be reopened with District volunteers, and that the FOSNL obtain an audit of their books while the final agreement was negotiated.

Mr. Welt said that he received a letter from the Mr. Levinson prior to today's meeting which said that the FOSNL wanted to go forward as there was no need for a contract. The letter is attached to the minutes as Appendix A.

Mr. Welt added that Mr. Morss submitted a grant request to fund the opening day collection at Centennial Hills in the amount of \$327,414 with the letter Welt sent on April 4. Due to the current fiscal crisis, the collection development money the District receives from the State of Nevada has been cut. The 2008 allocation was earmarked for the Centennial Hills Library and so the District requested the FOSNL to fund the amount. To date, Welt said he believed the request has not been heard and is still outstanding.

Mr. Welt said that the tenor of the letter he received prior to the Board meeting is that there are no more negotiations, the FOSNL do not want to enter into an agreement and they do not want to obtain an audit. Welt said staff is still investigating, but that the GASB accounting requirements under which the District operates may very well require certified financial statements from the FOSNL due to the District's relationship with the group. He noted that as the custodian of the books and the proceeds from the sale of the books, the District should have a written agreement with the FOSNL. A written agreement is both good legal practice and shows fiscal responsibility. Mr. Welt said he would try to continue the negotiations and resolve the impasse.

Mr. Morss explained staff's plan to re-open library bookstores using District volunteers. In some branches, FOSNL volunteers have packed up the bookstores and put up signs that say the space is temporarily closed. As reported at the FOSNL meeting Morss attended on April 9, the group plans on doing the same at their warehouse.

Mr. Morss said that as of April 14, 2008, the District will take over operation of the bookstore spaces that are in all twelve of the urban branches. Some branches have dedicated rooms for the bookstores while others have a small section in the branch that have limited wall shelving to market items for resale.

Mr. Morss said that currently some branches have volunteers who work in the bookstores stocking items for sale and boxing up other items to go to the FOSNL warehouse for sale. Some of these volunteers were recruited by the FOSNL while others have come to the library looking for a volunteer opportunity and were assigned to help with the FOSNL bookstores. Currently all volunteers, including the ones who assist in the bookstores, fill out a volunteer application for the Library District. This form is placed on file in HR as well as the branch for liability issues, etc.

Staff will be instructed to recruit not only new volunteers but to speak with current volunteers who work in the bookstores. The belief is that some of these volunteers will gladly continue volunteering and assisting with the bookstores, as they are genuinely motivated to help the library. Others, of course, will not. Nevertheless, all volunteers whether current or new, will be asked to fill out the volunteer form. This will make certain that all volunteers are current no matter what their previous status has been with the libraries.

Staff will utilize the storage space at the branches used by the FOSNL to store the donations received and to restock the bookstores.

Mr. Morss noted that signage will be changed. Branch staff will be instructed to remove the FOSNL signage and new signage will be installed that will advertise the bookstore under the District guise as well as list the pricing for the various items for sale. Staff will be instructed that all pricing will be standardized throughout the District.

Staff will be instructed to continue taking donations of materials from the public. The Materials Donation Receipt will be updated so that mention of the FOSNL is deleted.

Staff will continue to ring in the sales as they currently do. The funds will be deposited and the Business Office will continue to track the funds by branch. The cash register receipts will be reprogrammed to say "Bookstore," not "Friends" as has been the case in several of the branches. The funds will be held until it is decided how best to use them for District purposes.

Mr. Morss said that his goal was to have the majority of the bookstores reopened by Monday, April 14. He noted that three of the bookstores had been run by staff, with very little involvement by volunteers. Two of the bookstores, at the Clark County Library and at the Sahara West Library, are in separate rooms and do require a volunteer in the area to open the space. Morss said staff will work to ensure these spaces are open soon. The open hours may not be for the entire time the branch is open, but the FOSNL operated in the same fashion.

Trustee Costello said he thought the plan to reopen the bookstores was good. Chair Davis-Hoggard agreed and said she would count on Counsel to ensure the District's assets were protected.

Announcements
(Item IX.)

As part of the Reading Las Vegas program, Alexander McCall Smith will be speaking on Sunday, April 27 at 2:00 p.m. at the Clark County Library. Trustees should contact the Executive Assistant if they wish to attend.

The next Board Meeting will be held Thursday, May 15, 2008 in the Las Vegas Library at 6:00 p.m.

Public Comment
(Item X.)

None.

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Adjournment
(Item XI.)

Chair Davis-Hoggard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Benavidez, Secretary

LAW OFFICES OF BARRY LEVINSON

BARRY LEVINSON, ESQ.
JAMES J. BUTMAN, ESQ. *
ROBERT E. HULL, ESQ. ++
SARAH SMITH, ESQ.
RICHARD C. SIPAN, ESQ.
MARTINA L. JACCARINO, ESQ.
SUMMER STANISZEWSKI, J.D.

A Professional Corporation
2810 South Rainbow Boulevard
Las Vegas, Nevada 89146
Phone: (702) 836-9696
Facsimile: (702) 836-9699

Paralegals
Sally Crossley
Lisa Malin

* Of Counsel
++Also Admitted in California and New Mexico

April 10, 2008

Gerald Welt, Esq.
700 South Third Street
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Re: Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries

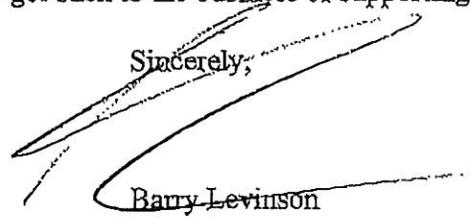
Dear Mr. Welt:

Since neither the Library District nor the Friends of Southern Nevada Libraries can agree on the content of a contract, I would strongly suggest that the contract be completely put aside and everyone get back to the basics of raising money for the Library District. Funds from The Friends and the donated books, being held by The District, need to be released so the stores may reopen for business. This would also decrease the non-budgeted cost being incurred by The District for the PODs, which currently store the donated books.

As verified, via phone and e-mail, there are no known Friends organizations that have contracts with their respective Library Districts. As a supporting, philanthropic organization, no contract has ever been required. The contract needs to be dropped.

Based on the latest issues brought to the table by the State of Nevada's budget crisis, no one should lose sight of both the Library District's and The Friends' goals, and that is to support the community. The community is suffering without the stores. The stores are the means to raise the additional funds needed to cover the cuts in the State's budget AND to cover the costs being incurred by both parties trying to make this contract happen.

I strongly urge everyone to get back to the business of supporting the Southern Nevada community.

Sincerely,

Barry Levinson

BL/lam
Cc: Mary Barken, Terry Reynolds, Tom Maltava