

**SPECIAL SESSION  
May 25, 2005**

The Board of Directors of Maricopa County Library District, Phoenix, Arizona convened in Special Session at 11:30 a.m., May 25, 2005, in the Supervisors' Conference Room, 301 W. Jefferson, Phoenix, Arizona, with the following members present: Max W. Wilson, Chairman, District 4; Don Stapley, Vice Chairman, District 2, Fulton Brock, District 1; Andrew Kunasek, District 3, and Mary Rose Wilcox, District 5. Also present: Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board; Shirley Million, Administrative Coordinator; David Smith, County Manager; and Paul Golab, Deputy County Attorney. Votes of the Members will be recorded as follows: aye-nay-absent-abstain.

### **LIBRARY POLICY**

**Discuss library policy and direct staff to review the library policy and submit a recommendation to the Board**

Harry Courtright introduced John Werbach, Financial Officer, and Jim Govern, Coordinator of Branches, for the District. Mr. Courtright distributed a copy of the District's Plan of Service for 2002-2005 that was adopted by the Board in March 2003. The plan is still in place with some minor changes. He explained the Mission Statement that shows the District's primary service goal is to serve the unserved portions of Maricopa County. In addition, the District has a commitment to the underserved or disadvantaged municipalities and towns with populations of 50,000 or less and to provide a reciprocal borrowing program to all cities. He continued with an explanation of the District's Issue Statement and Strategic Goals.

His updated plan for May 2005 through June 2009 covered the new services the District plans to establish. He said the direction the District is taking is to provide smaller library buildings having fewer books but with electronic resources for people to access. He listed the libraries in unincorporated areas now in service as the North Valley Regional Library (NVRL) in Anthem and branch libraries in Aguila, Laveen and Sun Lakes. The branches listed with under 50,000 population are El Mirage, Fountain Hills, Gila Bend, Guadalupe, Litchfield Park and Queen Creek. Those with over 100,000 population include Southeast Regional Library (SERL) in Gilbert and the Northwest Regional Library (NWRL) in Surprise. He gave details on each. In response to a question from Chairman Wilson, Mr. Courtright replied that at present there are two Bookmobiles but only one is in good enough condition to be used.

Major anticipated future issues facing the Library District included the following:

- SERL – IGA expires July 3, 2005, 365-day notice needed for non-renewal
- Litchfield Parks new building
- Electronic database-development
- Reciprocal Borrowing Program (RBP) revisit and adjust the original \$20 borrowing rate
- U of A partnership-request for medical center database serving the public
- Queen Creeks new building scheduled for 2008

Mr. Courtright reported that independent libraries have been complaining that they are not getting "a fair shake" from the District. For some time, the libraries have strongly suggested that the District buy electronic databases and let all the libraries in the County have access to them free of charge. Database services are purchased now based on the number of users at County libraries. They could be purchased, at an increased cost, based on the population of the whole County. He said that primarily at the request of Phoenix, MAG (Maricopa Association of Governments) had called two meetings and the District was requested to consider the purchase of all library electronic databases, which are now purchased by each public library in the County. The total cost of up to \$1.5 million would be the District's. This amount could

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be reduced through "consortium buying" and he indicated that the District planned to investigate this. He added that the libraries are "adamant that the District do something about this and another MAG meeting has been scheduled."

The University of Arizona has also approached the District regarding partnering with them to provide an electronic database in conjunction with their planned new Medical Center in Phoenix to make medical information available to the public.

Supervisor Stapley said that NACo has a nationwide program called, "U.S. Communities" and they have nation-wide purchasing power through the consortium of counties that are members. Mr. Courtright indicated that the District has been in touch with that body on this matter. Many libraries are now requesting a new Reciprocal Borrowing Program (RBP) rate be set, but to do that in a single year would add \$400,000 to District expenditures. Discussion ensued on the District's ability to levy taxes and on their need for an increased budget.

Chairman Wilson asked Mr. Courtright to meet with each of the Supervisors independently to continue this briefing and to then bring to the Board proposed recommendations for necessary changes to accommodate some of the services discussed and the possibility of broadening the District's duties.

Supervisor Brock suggested that the County could also take these recommendations to MAG and the State Legislature for statutory changes that would provide a workable formula that would be fair for everyone.

Supervisor Wilcox said she was on the Phoenix City Council when the current RBP was adopted and there had been lawsuits and appeals and a lot of arguing before the current process was adopted, more as a "last resort" than as a good solution.

Supervisor Stapley cautioned that the Board should consider any proposed changes very carefully before opening these issues to suggestions from other public bodies "Because the end result could be worse than what we have."

Mr. Courtright will bring recommendations back to the Board at a future meeting. (ADM2808)

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

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Max W. Wilson, Chairman of the Board

ATTEST:

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Fran McCarroll, Clerk of the Board