

ATLANTA PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

100 Race Street, P. O. Box 568, Atlanta, Illinois 61723

217-648-2112 (phone) 217-648-5269 (fax) apldinformation@gmail.com (email)

Trustees

Randy L. Brooks,
President

Steve Dreyer
Vice President

Karen Horn
Secretary

William Thomas
Treasurer

Jami Clark

Lori Cotton

Library Directors

Catherine
Maciariello

Rachel Neisler

Website:
www.atlantapld.org

August 14, 2017

Mrs. Eckert,

The Atlanta Public Library Board appreciates and values your input at its recent board meeting. The answer to your questions are listed below.

Question: Was the building (114 SW Arch Street) inspected by a licensed inspector and appraiser. **NO**

Answer: The building was initially inspected by contractor Todd Parks and the Board is currently in the process of securing another independent inspection. The same goes for an independent appraisal, the Board is currently in the process of securing an independent appraisal of the property.

Question: Will fireproof doors be installed in the Museum at the taxpayers' expense? **NO**

Answer: Our insurance company has informed the Library that such a measure is not necessary to ensure proper and affordable coverage for the building, so no such action will be taken at this time.

Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,



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Mrs. Hill,

The Atlanta Public Library Board appreciates and values your input at its recent board meeting. The answer to your questions are listed below.

Question: Why isn't it a conflict of interest for the board to rent, lease, or buy a building for a board member? **IT IS A CONFLICT - THE BOARD DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT**

Answer: At the initial onset of the current lease agreement, the Library's attorney informed the Board that such an arrangement is not an illegal conflict of interest provided that Mr. Thomas assert full disclosure of his ownership of the building, that he recuse himself from any and all discussions or debate related to the building, and that he refuse to participate in any vote on the approval or action on the Lease itself.

THOSE ARE NOT ALL OF THE LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Question: Why are we leasing a building from a board member for \$1000/month. Why not rent it per event and only when there is no other less expensive alternative.

Answer: The Library currently chooses to lease the space at 114 SW Arch Street for the following reasons:

- a. There is no other space large enough and appropriately configured, as well as within an appropriate distance of Library, to serve the Library's programming needs.
- b. In order to qualify for the Live and Learn grant, the Library was required to provide evidence of long-term access to and control of the space for which we were applying, either through purchase or long-term lease.

Question: How many times per month is it used?

Answer: Usage per month varies. For example, in June the space was used 20 times and in July it was used 13 times. The space has been used 5 times so far in August.

Question: When others use the leased space, do they pay the Library for its use?

Answer: There is a sliding scale for the rental of the space depending on the type of event and the number of people attending: from \$85 to \$160 base fees. Programs that are sponsored by the Library or fall under the auspices of the Library mission statement are given a reduced rate.

Question: Why do the invoices for the \$35,000 grant only total \$34,362.56? What happened to the rest of the grant money? Why weren't the invoices paid by a library check?

Answer: The Live and Learn grant period does not conclude until June 30, 2018, so some of the funds have not yet been spent. As for how the bills associated with the Live and Learn grant were paid, the Library ran out of checks for the account and in an effort to ensure timely payment, paid with money orders. Unfortunately, the copies of those orders were not saved and the Library is still looking into re-obtaining them.

Question: Was it legal for the grant money for projects in and on the Union Hall since it is not owned by the Library district?

Answer: Yes, not only is it legal to use the grant money for projects on the Union Hall Building, it is specifically what the grant was for and why the State required evidence of long-term control as described above. The Library obtained permission from both building owners before undertaking any major renovation projects. **AND THAT EVIDENCE WAS FAKED (IMHO)**

Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,

Randy Brooks
President
Atlanta Public Library District



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Mr. Roberts,

The Atlanta Public Library Board appreciates and values your input at its recent board meeting. The answer to your question is listed below.

Question: Why wasn't question to purchase of the Union Hall building put on a public ballot? **DOESN'T HAVE TO BE**

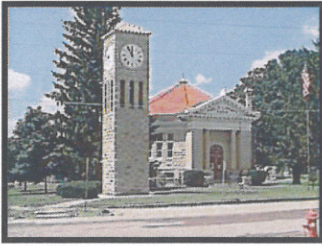
Answer: The only things required to be put to public ballot are election of Trustees and referenda to increase taxes, neither of which is occurring in this instance. Purchase of property is a decision legally assigned to the Library Trustees in their elected role.

WE WILL NOT LISTEN TO THE VOTERS BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE TO

Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,

Randy Brooks
President
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August 14, 2017

Mr. Menken,

The Atlanta Public Library Board appreciates and values your input at its recent board meeting. The answer to your question is listed below.

Question: Why would the library buy a building appraised at less than \$45,000? **READ THE CYA EXCUSE BELOW**

Answer: Currently, there has been no independent appraisal done on the property at 114 SW Arch Street, nor is there a purchase agreement in place to buy this property. The Board is currently working to secure an independent appraisal in order to make an informed decision regarding any purchase of property.

Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,

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August 14, 2017

Ms. Wertheim,

The Atlanta Public Library Board appreciates and values your input at its recent board meeting. The answer to your questions are listed below.

Question: **Are the financial records available for review by the public?**

Answer: All financial records of the Atlanta Public Library are available for public review. Citizens may submit a written FOIA request for any public record. In addition, the official minute books are kept at the library and available for public inspection upon request when the FOIA Officer is present.

Question: **How often are audits completed?**

Answer: **Audits are conducted at the Board's discretion.**

WE DO'AT WANT ANY BAD INFO GETTING OUT

Please let us know if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,

Randy Brooks
President
Atlanta Public Library District