

MINUTES
LAS VEGAS-CLARK COUNTY LIBRARY DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' NAMING LIBRARIES POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA
January 16, 2020
(approved March 12, 2020)

The Board of Trustees' Naming Libraries Policy Committee Meeting of the Whole of the Las Vegas-Clark County Library District met in regular session in the Clark County Library, Las Vegas, Nevada, at 6:00 p.m., Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Present: Committee: F. Ortiz, Chair
E. Foyt
M. Francis Drake
S. Ramaker
K. Rogers
S. Bilbray-Axelrod
R. Wadley-Munier
C. Brooks
B. Wilson

Counsel: G. Welt

Absent: K. Benavidez
R. Heezen, Executive Director

Staff: Mr. Fred James, Deputy Director/CFO
Numerous Staff

Guests:

F. Ortiz, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call (Item I.) All members listed above represent a quorum. Trustee Wilson attended via telephone. Trustee Benavidez had an excused absence. Executive Director Dr. Heezen was ill and unable to attend.

Public Comment (Item II.) None.

Agenda (Item III.) Trustee Wadley-Munier moved to approve the Agenda as proposed. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

Discussion and possible Committee action regarding recommendation of a naming opportunity for the Jewel Box Theater at the Clark County Library. (Item IV.A.) Development and Planning Director Danielle Milam explained that she has been working with the family of Paul Charles Blau since July 2019 on this donation. Mr. Blau had frequented the Clark County Library on many occasions. He was an avid learner and reader, loved the reading room in this library, and was also very involved with the theater. After touring Mrs. Constance Blau and Ms. Elizabeth Blau through the building, decided they liked the Jewel Box Theater and wanted their memorial gift to be associated with that location. Since the Jewel Box Theater had recently been renovated, this was not an ongoing project, needing money but, upon discussion with legal counsel, the Executive Council, and the donor, a gift of \$100,000 along with the naming rights for ten years were discussed.

The *Naming Opportunities Policy* stipulates that all Naming Opportunity proposals will be submitted to the Naming Libraries Policy Committee in writing, and each shall contain justification compliant with the criteria, terms, and purposes set forth in the policy. The proposal provides details related to criteria and terms for Trustees' consideration. The

purpose of this Naming Opportunity is to honor the memory of the donor's late husband, Paul Charles Blau. A *New York Times* obituary for Mr. Blau is attached to these minutes as Exhibit A.

Consideration of Proposals: To qualify for a naming opportunity, a proposal must demonstrate four things: 1) donors are willing to enter into an agreement to contribute at least 51% of the actual or estimated project costs; 2) geographical or functional names should be included in the agreement; 3) donor recognition signage will be consistent with Library District signage standards, and 4) the term of the agreement shall take into consideration the estimated life of the building or project area.

This memo outlines the details of the terms proposed for the proposed Blau Agreement, in alignment with the four policy criteria:

Paul C. Blau Theatre (located at the Clark County Library)

1. Agreement to contribute a minimum of 51% of project costs.
The Donor proposes a \$100,000 gift to rename the existing Jewel Box Theater in the Clark County Library to the Paul C. Blau Theatre. The donor preferred "re" be used rather than "er" at the end of theater. Since the theater space has seen recent improvements to furniture and equipment, there are no proposed changes to the space, other than minor improvements that go with an aging building. The Agreement with the Donor accepts the space as is and does not provide the Donor any right to object to any proposed future improvements which may improve the customer experience or functionality of this theater space.
2. Naming by geography or function. Signage for the Paul C. Blau Theatre retains the functional name for the space.
3. Signage consistent with Library District signage standards. Physical signage will be designed and installed by General Services in accordance with criteria of the District. The Library District's room reservation system and promotional materials will reflect this name change.
4. Term for 10 years. Upon consultation with the Executive Council, it was determined that a ten year term is appropriate for the total memorial gift of \$100,000, due in the first quarter of 2020. The term of this Naming Opportunity will be from January 2020 through December 2029.

Trustee Bilbrary-Axelrod thought this was a fabulous use of the District's naming policy. She added that the Blau family has given much to Las Vegas, stated the gift and theater name is a fitting tribute, and thanked Danielle for fostering the gift.

Trustee Wilson asked about the costs to rebrand the theater. Ms. Milam explained it would just be the signage that would need to be changed, along with the programming of the room reservation system. Per General Services, the cost would run about \$1,000.

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Trustee Meléndrez thanked the family for their willingness to continue supporting the library.

Trustees Wadley-Munier felt the donation was a really good use of the policy and thanked Ms. Milam for her work on this. Trustee Foyt was very pleased to hear about this donation as well.

Chair Ortiz confirmed that, for events taking place in the Paul C. Blau Theatre, the name would be on the brochures, flyer, any programming or promotions for its use with Community Engagement Director Matt McNally. He also confirmed that everything was in order legally with Counsel Welt who agreed that the proposed agreement was based upon the District's *Naming Opportunities Policy*.

Chair Ortiz, after determining that family was not in attendance, requested Ms. Milam thank them for their generosity. Ms. Milam advised the Committee that there will be a naming event in the future at which the entire Board will be invited.

Trustee Foyt moved to recommend to the Board of Trustees to approve renaming the Jewel Box Theater at the Clark County Library the Paul C. Blau Theatre according to the terms outlined above. There was no opposition and the motion carried.

**Public Comment
(Item V.)**

None.

**Adjournment
(Item VI.)**

Chair Ortiz adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Felipe Ortiz, Committee Chair

PAUL BLAU



BLAU--Paul Charles. Paul Charles Blau, born in Brooklyn, New York, died in Las Vegas, Nevada, March 26, 2018. Paul Charles Blau loved the sunshine. He lived in the Las Vegas sunshine for 40 years and died in the Las Vegas sunshine on March 26th, 2018 after suffering complications from a stroke. Paul was surrounded by his family when he departed, leaving behind his wife of 37 years, Constance Simpson Blau, and his four beloved children, his daughter Elizabeth Sarah Blau Ogilvie, his son Matthew Menachem Blau, and his two step-daughters, Amanda Lea Robinson and Liza Jane Robinson. Paul leaves behind his two grandsons, Phillip and Peter Blau, his beloved son-in-law Michael Ogilvie and daughter-in-law Bridget Blau, and five step-grandchildren, Bronwen, Eva, and Gus Green, Ilona and Amanda Stoffa. Paul was preceded in death by his parents, Maurice and Helen Blau, and his brother, Ronald Blau. Paul is also survived by a nephew, two nieces, and their families. Fiercely proud of being a New York Jew, Paul's adventurous spirit led him from military service to a potential career as an accountant in Manhattan, to the Peace Corps in Columbia, to an entrepreneur educator in Germany, to the movie business in San Francisco, to professional gambler in Las Vegas, then as a forever educator at his home and with his family. He completed degrees from Hofstra University, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Paul Charles Blau was passionate about conversation, history, politics, the NFL, tennis, film, theatre, loyalty, truth, but most passionate about reading. He read everything, anywhere, all the time. His family, friends, and acquaintances often heard him warn, "Be sure to take something to read!" He was a natural educator and found an opportunity in every moment to remind those around him of historical events that shaped the present. Paul's enthusiasm for life was contagious and his curiosity boundless. He lived a life of wonder and appreciation, and instilled this in others. Paul took to heart John F. Kennedy's statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country." Paul was a fierce patriot. He advocated for political justice and democracy, often volunteering for local politics. Paul's devotion to his family was inspiring. Paul's love was precious. Since love never dies, Paul Charles Blau will forever be surrounded by our love and forever in our hearts.

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