

# The UAPL Board Committee Activities

## mmminute



### Introduction

The Board of Trustees' four committees have been hard at work since spring planning for the future of the Upper Arlington Public Library.

According to six-term board member Jack Burch, who has the distinction of having served on all three major board committees, "Each board member brings his or her own strengths to our committees, and the results of their work will ensure our library's future for years to come."



### Operations Committee

The **Operations Committee** has spent many months analyzing studies prepared by building experts over the last four years to prioritize our buildings' needs. It has taken many hours to formulate a six-year plan that addresses all the known building issues at all three facilities. These projects range from very small (\$3,000) to very large (\$2.1 million). Most of these building repairs and improvements were delayed because of the uncertainty of state funding. Of course, we are subject to unforeseen circumstances. For example, air conditioning units were scheduled to be replaced in 2012. However, several of those units recently stopped working, and we had to fix them now.

The Operations Committee has also spent time anticipating technology needs. Due to the nature of technology, these projects are much more susceptible to immediate fluctuations than those included in the building repair and improvement plan.

"Working with our staff and President Sharpe on the 'life safety' and mechanical systems of our buildings is not glamorous, but important work," said Board Member Mark Shy. "It's gratifying to know that our patrons come to a clean and safe environment for our programs and services."



### Finance Committee

The **Finance Committee** has taken the lead on gathering all this committee information in order to make future projections. Finance Committee is looking at the revenue trends of property taxes, the Public Library Fund and other potential revenue sources. These trends will hopefully help us to predict our revenues in 2017. This is no light task considering the current environment.

"The job of the Finance Committee is to make sure the library has the resources to meet the needs of our patrons, that these resources are used properly and efficiently," said Board Member Bill Shkurti, who is the former chief financial officer of the Ohio State University and former director of the budget office for the State of Ohio. "This means we not only focus on the current annual budget, but look ahead to anticipate changes in the environment that will affect library finances and services in the future."



## Personnel Committee

The **Personnel Committee** has had a challenging time developing a plan. As state funding was being reduced, a hiring freeze was implemented and has been gradually lifted recently. Since June 2009, we are down about 30 positions or 20% (see graph below). This has affected staff as we have learned to cover other departments most affected by attrition. Now that we know the state funding has stabilized, the Personnel Committee can forge ahead in determining how the library should be staffed.

“The personnel committee continues to work hard to ensure that the residents of UA continue to get exceptional service from their library despite the reduction in staffing levels,” said Caroline Diwik, an attorney and Board Vice President.



“It has been a pleasure to watch the staff remain committed to giving our patrons the very best, despite the reductions in personnel,” adds Board Member Garrett Scanlon, a businessman with 25 years of experience in real estate.



## Fund Development Committee

We’re also looking at different revenue streams. Last year, the Board created a sub-committee called the **Fund Development Committee**. This committee is designed to help us look at other streams of income, specifically donations. This income, along with state support and the continuation of local levy revenue, will ensure the library’s future sustainability.

“With local and state funding for libraries in flux, the Fund Development Committee is seeking creative ways to increase library revenues,” said Board President Amy Sharpe, who holds an MBA from Vanderbilt University. “Our library is an Upper Arlington gem which the community supports and treasures. To continue the level of service our patrons demand, we must research successful strategies from other libraries and communities and aggressively pursue private funding sources.”



## Average Number of Employees

