

At the meeting Monday we will discuss the draft of the Coldwater Branch Lease that the Building Committee is proposing to the Board. In addition to the Committee, attorneys Ralph Stevens, Benjamin Jewell, and the Coldwater Public Library Board have been given the opportunity to examine and critique the draft.

As the Board knows, BDL's view is that the current expiring lease is unsustainable for the library over the long term, inappropriate since the building is owned by the city, and not commensurate with the agreements we have in place for our 5 other branches. Put simply: as a district library, the current Coldwater Branch Lease is not fair to the district taxpayers as a whole. At the same time, we acknowledge the fact that the headquarters of the library is in a beautiful, historic building, which we get from the City of Coldwater for \$1/year.

The Committee's recommendation, then, that we'll be discussing is about finding a sort of middle ground: formalizing a sharing of the expenses of maintaining a large, aging building between BDL and the city. In addition to making things clearer for us, having a defined agreement on who pays what for building maintenance was a prerequisite for the Sunrise Rotary to get involved in any projects with the library. If the BDL Board supports this draft, we'll present it to the City of Coldwater and await their comments or counter-proposals.

Submitted by
John Rucker