

# CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE TRANSCRIPT

## 09/16/24

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*Tony Cuda:* Okay. 181 A resolution encouraging Heights libraries to work toward a solution that transfers ownership of the piece. Campus building at 2843 Washington Boulevard. Uh, to Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc.. In hands.

*Jim Petras:* But I must share with everyone, as I think that everyone already knows. Uh, I drafted this with, uh, Councilman Cobb. And so, um, in it, I tried to express my deep appreciation for the work that's done for our community by both Heights Library and, uh, the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus tenants. And so I hope that we can earn everyone's support for this this evening.

*Tony Cuda:* Okay, Councilmember.

*Jim Posch:* I have a statement to read.

*Jim Posch:* This is a well-meaning resolution being offered with the intent to support and help our community. But passing this resolution isn't going to change any of the facts or help the library board do with the resolution what the resolution asks for, which is transfer the property to the nonpublic, non [inaudible], I'm sorry, nonpublic nonprofit fund by the tenants. I'm going to ask council to take another approach that I feel is more realistic to save the building and hopefully make that building an anchor for the arts in our community. The first step is to move this item to council committee, so we can look at solutions together with the library board and the nonprofit. I also feel it's our city's administration, I also feel our city administration has a role in this too. This is how I feel we can best use our leadership to support the community. If we pass this resolution, I want to remind everybody we've got a bunch of challenges. If we pass this resolution today as written. This is public property, and state law is very clear in how it can or cannot be, how the building can or cannot be transferred. The last time I checked, the \$1 transfer between taxing authorities would not apply. So, the public is going to question why a building valued at \$5 million is going to be given to a private entity. The property has deed restrictions from Grant Denning and also, I believe, a deed restrictions from the school district. And since this just came out this weekend, I think we really need to look at those, either find ways of getting around them or work together to get this resolved. Um, the building under the library has a property tax exemption. To keep that exemption, everybody in that building must also be tax exempt. That's something we need to look at and confirm. Um, anyone taking over or purchasing a building by Coventry will need significant resources in excess of six figures to remain, to keep that building private and public and in good shape. There's other many challenges involved with history and I'm just focusing today on the here and now, but approving this tonight without further study, with this council,

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knowing all these other challenges, I think this it's a mistake. Again, I don't want to see the building torn down. I want to see a resolution to get, to make this an arts resolution and an anchor for the community. And until we work together, I don't think that's going to happen. The library board is going to look at this. They already have their opinions. Um, our system wouldn't be necessary, and it would probably be demoted. And I don't think we want to do that.

*Tony Cuda:* So I'll tell you what. Let's I think we need to address both, what both of you said. But, Councilman Maddox, why don't you go next and the we'll...

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* A couple things... I'm not for against this. I thought that this was going to move to a committee for discussion, so I was surprised when I heard, that this sounded like something we were going to try to push through tonight. Um, I knew that this was being worked on, and it was. I was literally, I have some meeting scheduled people to discuss this. I had no idea, um, that there was any plan to move anything forward. Um, I had meeting scheduled both members of the library board, members of the library staff to to get further feedback on this. And I thought that we were meeting with them as well. I know we met with Coventry P.E.A.C.E., but we didn't meet with anyone else. So I was still working through that feedback. So I was trying to figure that out. I also, and I'm not quite sure if maybe it just be, because it was written that that's the reason why. My other concern was that my name was on it, because I got a ton of phone calls today about something that I had had nothing to do with putting together and had multiple questions about it, and I was still working through. And so that's why I didn't know. Is this something that is going to committee? Is it something that the expectation a majority of council was going to not discuss any further than this? Because I was still trying to flesh this out. I was even having discussion with some some folks in the nonprofit, and I had a list of questions for folks. But it sounds like we know there's no time now. So I guess that's my question. I need to clarify a question, I guess is is this going to committee or is it something that's going straight to the council to meeeting tonight to go for a vote?

*Tony Cuda:* I don't want to assume anything that Councilman Petras, did you write? I know you drafted this. Were you thinking it needed to happen now? I mean, you tell us what you were thinking.

*Jim Petras:* Yeah. So that's. That was my intention when when I drafted it. And, uh, initially, Councilman Cobb and I were the only folks who had our names on here. And then we passed it along to the law department, and it was included in the packet. I'm not sure at what point...

*Addie Balester:* I sent an email to you guys this afternoon, that was my, my bad. During the meeting you did during the meeting, I thought that I heard to add everyone

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and if they wanted to be removed to let me know. And I didn't hear from anyone [inaudible]them. So that was why everyone was on there. That is why...

*Jim Petras:* So, so that's something that we could like easily clarify. Yeah, I think that it's certainly worth having additional conversations, but I don't see these things as mutually exclusive. I think that it is okay for us to vote on this as it was introduced, and then also continue the conversations. I hope that this is something that will spur more conversations, but I don't think that delaying this is necessarily the right thing to do.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* I just don't see how it's prudent to move forward and vote on something without having all of the necessary information, like having a discussion with members of the library board, or library staff to have any feedback after the fact. It really doesn't add any weight to any feedback that they might get anyway. I just don't like the appearance of that. I think if something, something should be completely discussed and fleshed out before it goes to a vote. That way at least all the information is out to the public about why we're making these decisions. Because it, it may be the feelings about whatever is written here in this legislation would change if there's other feedback. I'm not saying that it would. I'm just saying that I think we owe it to all parties to really hear and flesh out what's happening here before something goes to a vote.

*Tony Cuda:* Uh. Councilman Petras.

*Jim Petras:* Yeah, I would just say that, um, you know, this, this resolution recognizes the good work of both of the parties, um, that are involved with this issue, and we are merely asking that they get to, or at least I am merely asking, that they get together and work it out themselves. I'm not necessarily looking to, you know, intervene in it. I'm merely looking to encourage them to work towards the solution that the overwhelming majority of folks have expressed

*Tony Cuda:* Councilman Posch.

*Jim Posch:* I mean, I mean, the problem, this is sort of like, okay, we don't have any authority on this. I mean, we're leaders. So looking at this and how we can contribute as a city, I think makes sense. But this is not in our lane. And there's a lot of information. And with all due respect, I was president of the school board when we transferred that property to a dollar, okay, I still have questions and, which I, which I've labeled some here today. If we don't have the opportunity to flesh these out. Make sure this is legal. It. I mean, I think we have to, I mean, I can't vote for this unless I'm confident that what we're telling the library or to do is. Okay.

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*Jim Petras:* Just on that point, I'm not telling the library board to sell it for a dollar. If that's a point of concern for them, then they should sit down with the tenants and negotiate an agreement. That's the way to bridge a divide here. And so, you know, please, if you know something different, then by all means... that that's not included in the resolution.

*Tony Cuda:* Let's get some other people. Councilman Cobb.

*Craig Cobb:* Sure. It was our intent just to show support and ask the library to work with these folks to reach a resolution of this situation. I think the sense of urgency that we felt is that we have heard that at the next library board meeting, there was going to be a vote to demolish this building, which I don't believe anyone. I won't say that. I'm going to speak for myself and Council Member Petras, don't want the building, uh, torn down, that that would be the worst thing that would happen. But I keep hearing that that is where the library board is going with that. And I do think that we do have, um, the right to speak on this subject as elected officials, whereas none of these library board members are elected officials. And I hear what you're saying about the legalities and the economics, and we're not asking the library board to break any laws. Uh, or, and I'm sure that they wouldn't do anything improper, but from what I am hearing from both sides, is that they're, you know, that the library board, it's got its position. It's entrenched. That they don't believe that there's any way that the nonprofits in that building can make this, uh, financially viable. On the other hand, the tenants in there say, say the opposite. Do we know whether the library board is willing to refrain from acting on this at their next meeting? If we don't vote on this tonight? I... do you know? Do we have a commitment from them?

*Tony Cuda:* Uh, I don't know what they're going to do. Councilman Larsen, you want to play in on this? You don't have to.

*Gail Larson:* Well, I mean, [inaudible].

*Tony Cuda:* Oh, I want to get, get to finish this part of it up first, though.

*Gail Larson:* Um, I've been vacillating all day today, and we keep getting more information from both entities, and they're all believable. And I'm getting more and more confused. So I lean towards not voting on first reading this evening, because they're both groups of people I respect, admire, and want them to figure this out, so that we can move forward.

*Tony Cuda:* Councilman Posch.

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*Jim Posch:* Whether we vote on this yes or no, the library board is going to walk. I mean, if we vote yes on this and we just walk away from it and just say, hey, we're not going to be further involved in this. They may go ahead and demo the building, and that's probably the path that they're going to take. This suggestion to put it in committee is not going to stall the action, but I would certainly hope that the library board members would realize that we're offering an olive branch, making sure that everybody understands their decision making process. And I got to tell you, it seems to me that if this is going to be an anchor tenant, it's going to be a [inaudible], it's going to be an arts organization. Certainly seems to me that the Arts Commission get involved in this. Um, it's obvious that this nonprofit currently is going to need resources. They don't have enough resources to maintain the building. Even the pro forma \$15, \$15,000 a year to maintain a \$5 million business, or a \$5 million building is not enough. And I think that's, I mean, I know the library just put somewhere between \$60 and \$90,000 work on a roof because they're afraid it's going to collapse. We've had a lot of structural problems, and I don't want to put the tenants in a position where it's untenable. You know what I mean? But that's why I think it makes sense for us all to sit together. And I don't see any harm in waiting.

*Tony Cuda:* I just, I just want to say something quickly, and then we'll go to the mayor. Um. I think what the the tenants are asking for is advocacy. And I think that's what we're, we're trying to do. Um, perhaps this is a little bit specific. Uh, I'm talking about the resolution. Um, if the resolutions said, for instance, and this is with all respect to both parties involved. Um, you know that instead, instead of saying transfer to Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc., it just said, to keep it a viable home for the arts and community organizations. Talking about in the title, and then instead of the last whereas clause where it says, um, to transfer ownership of the Coventry P.E.A.C.E. campus from Heights Libraries to Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc., again, you know, viable home for the arts community organization. I mean, yeah, I would love for Coventry P.E.A.C.E., Inc. to, to, uh, be the receiver of this, but I don't know that if that's what we're trying to say, then it ought to go here. I think, I think what we're trying to advocate for. Please, if I'm putting words in your mouth, you can shoot me down. Uh, is, is that it, it ought not to be demolished and it ought to stay at home for the arts and community organizations. And if we make that modification, you know, basically, then we're just saying we hope it remains, um, in some kind of similar form that it is now. And we're not so specific as to say it ought to go to this particular organization.

*Jim Posch:* You know, I think that's a great option, but I would prefer to have that conversation in committee.

*Tony Cuda:* I understand that that's [inaudible].

*Jim Petras:* I'd be willing to accept an amendment that would modify this to say something like, preserve the building at that address as a hub for arts and culture. I

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would be willing to do something like that, assuming that we're still able to vote on it tonight, because I think that it's important that we either vote yes or no on it today.

*Tony Cuda:* Councilman.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* It, it, just for clarity. Before I say, what I want to say, is it is the sense of urgency because of the decision they may be making. It is that why is that okay? Because just for for me, it isn't just about this piece of legislation. It's just making sure that everything that we have going through is fleshed out. I know just a couple of months ago, we talked about having that that agreement and putting things through committee and making sure that they're fleshed out. Um, I just, I don't like how it feels or how it looks to, to, to. It just feels rushed and pushed, especially considering we've, we've had one side of that conversation at the table but not the other. And I don't even know if they, if anyone invited them. And I'm not saying it would sway anything. I'm just saying for the public, um, I think it should be clear that any decision that we make or anything we put out, we could at least flat footed, say that we, we, we invite the parties to the table and had the conversation with everyone connected. It wasn't one sided, but again, I was under the impression that this is something that we will continue to discuss. And that's why I scheduled those meetings. I really wanted to get a sense of what was going on in terms of what the library staff and the library board both were sensing on there end and get some clarifying questions, and I feel like I'm being asked to make a decision without having those questions answered. And, and that, that's problematic for me, in this case, and any piece of legislation. I just think that something like this really needs to be fleshed out in a committee, um, before we make any clarifying decisions. So for, for me tonight, just respectfully, I don't see how an amendment really offers that and shines a lot of light in terms of people who may not understand exactly what's happening with this in the community. I think it's important that we get those other sides of the table so that any decision is made, at least the public has something they can go back to to hear both sides. And I don't think we've made that available right now.

*Tony Cuda:* Well, a couple quick things. We did get some pretty detailed, um, information from library trustees, and and I understand that that wasn't discussed at the table, but I have to say it was very detailed, and it was from several trustees, with what I consider to be a lot of information. I'm not saying you ought to be satisfied. Secondly, um, I do think that, I don't think this is an attempt to create a policy to rush through something. I think it's the circumstances that are dictating this. And we did, when we did have that conversation a couple of months ago, we we did say that it doesn't really apply to resolutions, which we kind of routinely pass, um, you know, advocacy resolutions, we do routinely pass on first reading. So I want to get to, uh, Councilman Petras, and then I'm sorry, the mayor's been waiting and.

*Jim Petras:* Just real quick, so, um. Yes, earlier this year, we passed that process. We agreed. We unanimously agreed that something could either be brought up in

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committee of the whole or an individual committee. And as council President Cuda said, there was, um, that, that caveat that that doesn't apply to resolutions. And then also looking at tonight's agenda, there are 22 instances where there is an emergency measure. So, you know, I, I feel perfectly comfortable voting on this tonight.

*Tony Cuda:* All right. Mayor. [inaudible].

*Mayor Seren:* I think in part, you probably already expressed some of the, the message that I was going to offer, and that would be to reduce the specificity in the recommendation. Um, you know, I think, um, this particular resolution, you know, provides a specific prescription for, for this. And that's not necessarily, I wouldn't know, necessarily a viable prescription, uh, to, to solve this issue. Um, and so I thought that what you mentioned was appropriate, that the council could consider, uh, amending this recommendation to make it a little bit more, uh, vague and open to possibility while keeping sort of a general goal, that the council has a general goal that they all agree on, or at least a majority of council has a goal that they all agree on. Um, and I don't know, um, obviously, if two of you are not in favor of voting on this tonight, but the other five are interested in moving it forward, then you can pass it as you see fit. Um, as an emergency, uh, resolution and, and go on about your day. Uh, if there is a concern that the library board is planning on voting at their next meeting, is at the 23rd? [inaudible]. Um, I, you know, just a cursory look, I haven't seen any agendas posted with this on them. I, I would like to know, does anybody have, like where's the rumor coming from that they're expecting to vote, vote on this, uh, on the demolition evidence?

*Tony Cuda:* Well, I don't know about the demolition. I know that, that in the meeting last week. Last Monday, um, they said that they were going to, get it, go into executive session on the 23rd to speak about this. I mean, you know, of course, there's no guarantee or crystal ball that they're going to come out and vote. But, um, I mean, I think they're headed towards making a decision. I think that was very clear from the detailed notes I read. I actually did attend the meeting, but didn't, I was there an hour and a half, and I ended up leaving before they actually got into it, but I read the transcript of the meeting and it was pretty pointed.

*Mayor Seren:* The only other thing that I might offer that might help the council sort of address, maybe not all of the needs of council members, but the possibility is, since there's a special committee of the whole meeting, uh, next Monday at 4:00, um, I believe I saw that on my calendar. Um, and that would be, I presume, in advance of the library board meeting, assuming Library in the evening, um, that you might be able to hold some sort of, um, council meeting, special counsel meeting to consider this again before their vote and transmit it. But in the interim, uh, maybe hold a special committee meeting, or something like that, to have a conversation and maybe invite members of the library board or the staff, if that's sort of the perspective that, some people feel is missing. I don't know what conversations council members had

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with all of the involved players, but just as a thought, it's something that you could potentially, if you wanted to have another meeting, um, provide that opportunity for, uh, more public discussion of this particular resolution and its phrasing before pulling the trigger on it. But that's just a, I'm just offering that as a possibility, not advocating for it as a, as a path.

*Tony Cuda:* Do you have a position you'd like to advocate for?

*Mayor Seren:* I do not.

*Tony Cuda:* Okay.

*Tony Cuda:* Um, so that's what we've got in front of us right now. Do we, do we want to come up with amendment language, uh, tonight and move it forward? Do we want to, um, discuss that at another meeting? Uh, and in between now and then of some kind of hearing? Um. Yeah. Go ahead.

*Jim Posch:* I'm not suggesting a hearing. I saying just send it to committee. I mean, so I don't think there needs to be a hearing. But I do think, though, that we need to get all the parties together. We need to get some lawyers together and see what's doable and what's not doable. I think the most important thing is, how can we contribute to a solution, because this is not in our lane.

*Tony Cuda:* But when you say a committee? I mean, it's, it's in committee of the whole. I mean, this is this is a resolution, that I mean, it's not, I don't think it's going to go to anybody's.

*Jim Posch:* I don't care what committee.

*Jim Posch:* It is, but we just got notice of this.

*Tony Cuda:* Thursday.

*Jim Posch:* Thursday. Okay. And you know, as much as I've done, I've tried to do a bunch of research in the meantime and spoke to a lot of parties. I don't have enough to vote on.

*Tony Cuda:* So you're not for that for a minute. Amending it here and then and then voting today.



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*Jim Posch:* I am not for that.

*Tony Cuda:* Okay. Go ahead, councilman.

*Jim Petras:* Um, I'd be happy to pull it up on my laptop, if people are okay with softening the language to say something like, preserve it as a hub for the arts and culture, I could make those changes and share it. I think that it's important that we do vote on this tonight. Um, even if that's an amended version. Um, the library board will likely vote on the 23rd. I think it's important that we have it in advance of then. And I'm not sure that I'm, I'm definitely not suggesting that we necessarily become a mediator, as I sort of inferred, that Councilman Poche might be suggesting. I would like for the two parties to come together and find a resolution of their own, but this, doesn't voting on this doesn't preclude us from continuing conversations with folks in the library. So...

*Tony Cuda:* Okay, so. Council vice president. How would you like to move forward?

*David Russell:* Well, I would like to see it softened, uh, not so direct. And, uh, I think, uh, Posch and, uh, Mr. Maddox have some, uh, points when they're talking about, uh, having the library, actually, or someone from the library come and speak to us as well. Um, and it could do prior to the library voting on the 23rd.

*Tony Cuda:* Okay. Councilwoman Larson.

*Gail Larson:* You know, I don't like to be rushed into anything.

*Tony Cuda:* I'm just asking. I'm not rushing.

*Gail Larson:* Um, I would like to see this language softened if we're going to do resolution, but I would like to have a special committee meeting, whichever it's called, to discuss this further.

*Tony Cuda:* I, I think we'd have to do it in committee of the whole. You know, we I don't see a three person committee covering this.

*David Russell:* But we'll have to do it prior to.

*Tony Cuda:* Understood.

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*David Russell:* So it's making sure that vote.

*Craig Cobb:* Well, that gives us if we're going to have a special meeting that it's got to be next Monday. Um.

*David Russell:* We're scheduled for next Monday.

*Speaker 6:* We are, uh, interviews with, uh, the mayor's appointments at four, finance Committee at five. Is that still on? Um, can we do a special committee? Uh, committee of the whole, and a special council meeting to take a vote on this next Monday?

*Tony Cuda:* Well we could, it would be the day that they're, that the, uh, library board is going to meet. I can't say vote, but meet.

*Craig Cobb:* Clearly, the library board knows, I think maybe now, how at least 3 or 4 of us feel about it. So the impact is there already from our merely having it on the agenda and discussing it. But to give the force of the resolution, for whatever it's worth, we would have the opportunity to vote on it and maybe change a couple of council members minds that are reluctant to vote on it as it is now.

*Tony Cuda:* Council Mattox, are you okay with speaking on this? Uh, I mean, reintroducing this a week from today?

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Absolutely.

*Tony Cuda:* Okay. You obviously said you are.

*Jim Posch:* Well. I'm not here next week.

*Tony Cuda:* Oh.

*Jim Posch:* And I think what you would do is meet,. I don't have to, I mean, you, you you guys are going to put up a decision you guys need to make with or without, if someone is absent. Of course, I'd like to be there, I'd like to be part of it.

*Tony Cuda:* Well, how about this? Could you, if, let's just say , just because this is

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Councilman Petras's, um, legislation and he wrote, the author. If he if he comes up with an amended version, you could look at it, and, uh, if you want to say, if you want a statement to be read on your behalf or something[inaudible]...

*Jim Posch:* Yeah, absolutely. But, but I think the issue here is, if we're collaborating and if we're going to have a meeting, we're going to want to make sure that we've got some representatives from Coventry P.E.A.C.E. We're going to want to make sure we got representatives from, from the library, and we can ask them to do it in another day. I mean, they've been sitting on this building since 2018. Okay. And they basically have given the tenants to the end of the year. It's not necessarily something that I believe is going to be happening overnight.

*Tony Cuda:* All right. Councilman Petras and then we gotta' to move on.

*Jim Petras:* I think that, um, if we were to put this off, again, my preference is that it be voted on tonight. But if the consensus for that we wait until next Monday, I think it's important that two things are possible. One, we are aware from emails that we've received that community members are planning to attend this evening's meeting in anticipation that this is going to be voted on. So I absolutely think that people should have the right to talk at the next meeting. Also, I think that it's important that we, if it's a committee of the whole...

*Tony Cuda:* Yeah. You're right. Special meetings, unless we say so, do not have public input. And I will, I'll commit to that.

*Jim Petras:* And then also, I think that it's important that the meeting be scheduled such that we could go to the meeting because, for example, I was planning to attend that meeting anticipating that we would be done in time for that. But now if we are loading up that agenda with this, then, you know, we may not. So I think that that's another important consideration.

*Tony Cuda:* Yeah. That one I don't know how to solve right in this moment.

*Unidentified Speaker:* [inaudible]

*Jim Petras:* Because we want the public to come to it.

*David Russell:* Oh that's right. Oh I can zoom in.

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*Addie Balester:* Well, I'm just saying we've got a 5 to 6 p.m. meeting for finance committee, so it would be at 6 p.m. and their meeting is at 6:30. So that's probably not really going to really happen. I'm just saying.

*Craig Cobb:* Their meetings at 6:30?

*Addie Balester:* Yeah. Exactly.

*David Russell:* So can you move yours up?

*Jim Petras:* Can we choose something other than Monday.

*Gail Larson:* You and I are the ones that are going to be meeting, so do you, can we be a little flexible and...

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* I was gonna ask you for a couple of things. Either move it up or maybe switch the meetings around. So that finance is after.

*Gail Larson:* So you're ok with that?

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Yeah, I'm fine with that.

*David Russell:* So Anthony and I are the only ones because Jim's going to be gone.

*Tony Cuda:* Oh, right.

*Addie Balester:* Well, I will say I have to make sure that the people who we are interviewing can go at 5:00 instead of 4:00.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Ah. That's true.

*Addie Balester:* So...

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Ahh.

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*Addie Balester:* I don't. I'd have to check.

*David Russell:* Well, I was talking about our finance committee.

*Addie Balester:* Great. But we're talking about switching those around so that the finance is 4:00 to 5:00, and then the committee of the whole would be...

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* People working the job, trying to come in from [inaudible]. I didn't think about that. Yeah, that's going to be a problem.

*David Russell:* But I, I can check.

*Tony Cuda:* All right. Well we're going to, for the moment, we're going to have to make it contingent on how we work this out

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Does, does finance have to be at night?

*Unidentified Speaker:* I don't know. But...

*Gail Larson:* I was trying to be accommodating for everybody. And I was going to send out the beautiful [inaudible].

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Oh, right.

*Gail Larson:* Um, if you want to do it, we need to get going on that too, as well, to talk about the queries and the data and what to analyze. So I don't know if you've got any ideas.

*Tony Cuda:* This reminds me of, uh, when we were trying to organize the meeting at 11:00. Go ahead.

*Jim Posch:* I think we're, um, I think if you sort of read the emails that we received from library board members, they have essentially asked to be included in the process. And I can't speak for that. But I think if you ask them to participate, delay whatever thing, delay anything that they're going to delay, or if they could, to accommodate our schedule, in the spirit of collaboratively and helping them through this in any way we can. Keep in mind they're the decision makers. We're not the

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decision makers. It's not. It's not something in our lane. I mean, I got to think there is something that we can do to help find a resolution from [inaudible].

*Tony Cuda:* I mean, that's something I can, I'm perfectly willing to try to do, is is just I don't know that, you know, that that would be appreciated because we do want to make a statement. Evidently.

*David Russell:* But you would invite them to the table as well.

*Tony Cuda:* Well, we want to invite them to the table first. And, and, you know, just to see if they'd be willing to, to at least, if they were thinking about making a decision on the 23rd, could we, could we have this conversation first? You know, it's up to them as to what they want to do.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* Just a quick question, though, has University Heights, are they working on anything like this as well? Have they had any dialog on it?

*Tony Cuda:* I don't know.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* I'm just curious.

*Tony Cuda:* Yeah. No, it's.

*Speaker 4:* The only reason I'm asking...

*Tony Cuda:* It's probably something worth asking.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* So I said, because if they were having conversations or had questions, it sounds like a joint meeting anyway. Just flesh it out.

*Tony Cuda:* And that begs the question, you know, this is something I was actually going to say in my president's report, but it does beg the question of why we don't have the joint meetings. I mean, if this, if this wasn't the most right issue for the two cities, the library board and the school board to be at the table like they, like they have before, I mean, this is, this is definitely one of those instances where I think the conversation with the four entities at the table would go a long way.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* That's why I was wondering, I didn't know if anyone has spoken

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to the mayor or council that they are in [inaudible] they had got any additional feedback because it absolutely impacts their community as well. So I was just wondering.

*Tony Cuda:* I mean, I brought it up to the school board president about re-igniting those meetings.

*Anthony Mattox, Jr.:* I just wondering specifically if they had any feedback for this particular [inaudible]. Okay.

*Tony Cuda:* No. I mean. Um, so we're going to have to, as far as working out at a time for a committee of the whole meeting, we're going to have to check the schedules of several people, and I guess we'll.

*David Russell:* Well, if you can get them to postpone their meeting, that would help. That would.

*Tony Cuda:* I Mean it's, I mean, but I certainly would plead the case, but it's, you know, totally their, [inaudible]

*Jim Petras:* I'd like to say that, um, if they're willing to postpone their meeting, I personally would be more flexible, that, you know, seems like a good faith effort. Um, but if they want to go ahead with it, I will personally call for a special meeting in advance of that, so that we can vote on this in advance of their meeting.

*Jim Posch:* Um.

*Tony Cuda:* I hope you don't mind if I move on, but I'm looking at what else is left. And what's left on the agenda. And it's a lot.

*Unidentified Speaker:* Um.

*Tony Cuda:* 182.