

**James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by President Jennifer Harris. Members present were Ruth Ashton, Virginia Whitaker, Carol Hix, Tom Hayghe, Karen Freas, Jennifer Harris, Library Director Kat Spears, and Gail Geraghty. Also present were Friends' liaison Louisa Fink-Lorito and Board of Supervisors liaison Benjy Morris. Jennifer asked all board members to introduce themselves to Benjy, who will now represent the Board of Supervisors at our meetings.

Approval of Minutes - Jennifer described the changes she'd made to the wording of our last minutes, due to the need to clarify the CIP information. Ruth moved to approve and Carol seconded. Motion carried.

Public Comments - None

Friends' Report - Louisa Fink-Lorito shared that the Friends had some great news - their Aid and Guidance petition was granted in court last week, regarding the stipulation of the bequest from Helen C. Wright. Now those funds can be used beyond the purchase of childrens' books. Louisa also said that the Friends will be financially supporting the following in the upcoming months: a toddlers playset for the new playground, and several library programs, including the Summer Reading Program. The Friends have extended an invitation to the library board to appoint a board representative to attend their quarterly meetings. The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 28th at 3 PM. Louisa also shared that she will be stepping down in her role as liaison.

Officers Report - None

Committee Reports -

Evaluation Committee - Tom said that he completed and delivered the evaluation of the Library Director to Kat on Thursday, March 14th.

Library Director's Report

Kat spoke about the progress of the new playground, saying that the county is paying for the big-kids' section, the Friends are paying for the toddler section, and she is beginning a fundraiser to pay for the picnic table/sunshade area. She has approached several area businesses to help out financially, and has received some commitments. Kat asked us to think of other businesses/groups to ask.

She will send out a link to Sign-Up Genius for volunteers at upcoming events.

Community Day will take place on April 20th from 10 - 12 to fix up the library grounds.

This will be a good opportunity to get the community involved with the library.

The computer basics class for seniors was held here at the library on March 7th with a few participants, but Baylee is looking to possibly move it in future to the Veterans Center in conjunction with another program, for greater access to more seniors.

Kat reminded the board to please record their volunteer hours before leaving.

She said the library will begin to circulate board games, beginning on National Board Game Day, April 11th.

This year the library will participate in the Smoky the Bear Reading Challenge, and has set up a display in the lobby.

She spoke with the county's community development director about our budget, as our numbers did not match what was originally submitted. We are waiting to find out about CIP funding for next year, but as the Friends have agreed to help out already, the upgrades should still get done.

Kat has been working with the Friends to better invest their recent endowment.

The updates to the strategic plan were discussed briefly, and Jennifer asked for a motion to approve. Carol moved, and Ruth seconded. Motion carried.

Kat said she has been working on website upgrades, and, according to her recent FOIA training, she believes the library is compliant with posting only the board meeting dates, and that posting agendas and minutes are more of a courtesy. Jennifer said she thought it was a requirement, but it will be looked into.

Kat passed out packets to the board members which contained reading program passports that need to be put together, and asked for our help with this. She also asked for help with the upcoming Teen Movie Night on April 12th, as an adult presence is needed. The petting zoo has been rescheduled for April 13th.

She shared that the library's shed is being taken down and will be moved elsewhere by Darryl, as it will be in the way of the new playground.

Old Business

Board Development Committee - Jennifer said that this new committee is needed to help fill our board vacancies, manage officer and committee positions, and provide for self-evaluation of the board. Virginia and Ruth volunteered to serve, and Kat said she will serve as chair.

New Business

The board discussed the Friends request for a board member liaison to attend their meetings. Tom asked about the role we might have there, if we had no voice. Kat said that she already attends all Friends meetings, and Jennifer suggested that we ask the Friends to revise their by-laws to say that if the library director is not able to attend, then a board member will be there.

Jennifer asked for any further comments or concerns from the board. There were none.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at 6:00 PM.

The meeting was adjourned by Jennifer Harris at 6:59.