

James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
July 16th, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by member Carol Hix. Members present were Tom Hayghe, Virginia Whitaker, Carol Hix, Ruth Ashton, Joi Worsham, Kat Spears, and Gail Geraghty. Also attending was Board of Supervisors liaison Benjy Morris.

Carol asked for approval of minutes from the May 21st board meeting. Ruth moved to approve and Virginia seconded. Motion carried.

Kat introduced our newest board member, Joi Worsham, to the board, stating Joi has had considerable experience working with the public through social service work, and will be a valuable addition to the library board. Kat presented her with a membership folder, and explained the contents briefly. Carol administered the oath of office to Joi and members welcomed her.

Friends Report - No Friends members were present, so Kat shared some recent information. No new rep has yet been chosen to replace Louisa as liaison. Kat said that the Friends board has been occupied with providing support for the Summer Reading Program in June, as well as settling affairs of the Helen C. Wright Trust, which was established to provide enrichment to the children's section of the library. The Friends have sponsored David Pippin to present a class on flower arranging this Saturday. Also, this fall the Friends will begin a field trip program, arranging and providing transportation to various points of interest.

Officers Report - Carol said, as corresponding secretary, that she sent a sympathy card to a member for the passing of a loved one.

Committee Reports - Members of the the Board Development Committee, Virginia and Ruth, shared the proposed recommendations of expectations for board service, as part of our board's self-evaluation process. The list of six recommendations advocates regular participation in board meetings and library functions. There was some discussion of the purpose for establishing these recommendations, and Tom said that if we have them, then there should be a way to enforce them. Kat suggested that we could consider having board members share how they've been supporting the library at each meeting. Tom moved to approve the recommendations, Gail seconded, and motion carried.

Library Director's Report -

Kat discussed the End of the Fiscal Year Report for 2024. She noted that the numbers were up in all categories over last year, particularly with in-person programs.

The summer reading program was well-supported by the Friends, and had 25% greater participation than last year.

The new playground project has received around \$30,000 in private donations. Construction is progressing and next week accessible walkways will be put in. A soft opening will be held first, and then a grand opening, maybe in the fall.

Kat passed around the new fall programming flier. Rodney's Raptors, very highly recommended, will be coming on September 14, and a public shredding event is planned for September 28th. Local attorney Glen Henkle will deliver a legal presentation in October.

Kat says she is still tentatively planning the census training for the board on August 26th, awaiting confirmation from the presenter.

For those teens with parents unable or unwilling to come in to help them get a library card, Kat is proposing adding the option of an in-house limited account. This will allow teens, ages 12 - 17, to have access to some tech materials they haven't been able to use, as well as some Nerf balls they can take outside and then return. Also, through a ward account, in lieu of a parent, a guardian such as a grandparent will be allowed to register a child for a library card. Carol called for a motion to accept this proposal, Ruth moved and Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Old Business - Kat said that the new IT provider is in place, a bit more expensive, but we now have cloud backup for all of the library's data as well as network monitoring.

Benjy asked about the cameras on the premises; Kat told him that ours are very out-of-date and need to be replaced, as they are not compatible with current technology.

New Business - Board nominations: Ruth spoke with Callie Walker as a potential new board member, and said Callie had expressed interest in serving on the board. Her experience with the public and connections with the Spanish-speaking community would be an asset to the library. Ruth made a motion to move forward with the nomination, and Tom seconded. Motion carried.

Kat said that the library had recently been asked by the Board of Supervisors to suspend any spending that wasn't absolutely necessary. Benjy said that the board made the decision to restrict spending because the county's financial situation was stressed. Gail asked if our already-approved budget was being restricted and why was there already a pinch two weeks into the new fiscal year. Kat said she was going to request, at the Board of Supervisors meeting tomorrow, that the \$14,922 additional money awarded from the state be returned to the library.

Kat said that the library is currently on track with the Strategic Plan, according to our five-year plan, and next year it will be revisited.

Carol asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting and Benjy moved. Ruth seconded and the motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:20.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 PM.