

**James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
January 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 by president Jennifer Harris. Members present were Carol Hix, Jennifer Harris, Ruth Ashton, Joi Worsham, Callie Walker, Gail Geraghty, Karen Freas, and Tom Hayghe. Also present were acting library director Wren Donati, Friends liaison Wendy Audley, and Board of Supervisors representative Benjy Morris.

Jennifer asked for any questions or comments about the minutes of our last meeting. None were had. Carol moved that they be approved, Ruth seconded. Motion carried.

Friends of the Library - Wendy shared that three new members have joined recently, they have put together a new informational brochure. Also, they are researching what other local Friends groups are doing, in order to update their practices. At their last meeting, they met with a financial rep from Raymond James. The annual meeting will be held on the last Sunday in April, the 27th, at 3:00.

Nominating Committee - Jennifer asked if there was movement on candidates to replace Virginia Whitaker. No suggestions were made. She asked Benjy if he had any ideas to please let us know. He said he would bring the names of any potential candidates before us.

Director's Report - Wren said that she had no specific concerns, and that things were going smoothly. She also added that the two recently-hired staff members were doing very well. Jennifer thanked the library staff for their hard work and dedication in preparing the children's room. It looked beautiful for the open house.

Capital Improvement Plan - Jennifer asked Benjy to clarify the frozen CIP funds. He answered that, as more revenue is expected this year, we will most likely be able to pick up where we left off with our CIP request from last year.

Policies - Jennifer said that the library's policies have not been updated in several years and they need an overhaul. However, she also suggested that perhaps we wait for the new library director to look at them. No action was taken at this time.

Programming - Wren said there was a good turnout at the puppet show in December, although three programs were cancelled due to inclement weather.

Budget - Wren said she submitted the budget on time in December to the county, and has not yet received any feedback, beyond a budget calendar. Jennifer asked her to let us know when they hear back from the county. Callie asked if Kat Spearshas been doing any consulting and Wren said Kat had shared some budget input. Wren shared her copy of the budget with Jennifer and discussed how she set it up, and Jennifer noted that we are about \$60,000 under budget. Jennifer asked Wren to share the proposed budget with all board members. Carol asked if we would be meeting in February to discuss the approved budget. Jennifer said that would be possible.

New Business - Library Director Applicants Jennifer explained how the board has selected potential candidates and conducted interviews in the past, and asked for any questions or comments about the process. Members, who had last week been given the eight applications that were received so far, individually shared their input about applicant qualifications. Tom spoke about not limiting our screening process. After some discussion, three candidates were selected to interview. Jennifer said she would schedule the interviews herself. It was agreed to try to set up several on Monday, January 27th, with all board members invited to participate. She said she would get back to us with the times, etc.

The meeting adjourned at 7:20. The next scheduled board meeting will be held on March 18th at 6:00 p.m.