

James L Hamner Public Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

March 18, 2025 6:00 pm

The meeting was called to order by Board Chair Jennifer Harris at 6:02pm. Members present were Karen Freas, Callie Walker, Tom Hayghe, Ruth Ashton, Joi Worsham, and Carol Hix. Acting Library Director Wren Donati, Friends Liaison Wendy Audley, and Board of Supervisors representative Benjy Morris were also present.

Jennifer asked for any questions or comments concerning the minutes of the meeting on January 21, 2025. Having none, Carol moved that the minutes be approved. Ruth seconded; the motion carried.

Public Comments—A presentation of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library (DILP) was given by a local committee. A Nottoway County Librarian, along with several members of the committee were in attendance. Registered children from birth to 5 years old receive a free book monthly. 79 counties in VA currently have the program. The committee must partner with a 501C-3 corporation to initiate the DILP program. Linda Tanner, President of the Friends of the Library, stated the Friends might lose their tax-exempt status if they signed an MOU and that the Friends would not be partnering with the committee. Other suggestions were given for the committee to reach out to churches, Amelia Academy Education Association, or other local 501C-3 corporations to find a suitable partner. The library BOT members all expressed their support for the program.

Friends of the Library—Wendy said that they have a new brochure that they hope will be ready for the annual meeting on Sunday, April 27 at 3pm at the library. There is a meeting next week and she hopes to have more information then.

Committee Reports—Benjy is nominating Jody Hall as a Trustee from District 3. He will present her bio and information to the Supervisors at the April meeting and hopefully she will be appointed. Budget meeting with the BOS should occur in March with each department but no dates have been set.

Library Director Report—Wren asked for a change in the overdue and lost item procedure which requires a patron to pay the list price plus \$2.00. She would like to add “rounded to the nearest dollar” so the staff doesn’t have to deal with pennies. Callie made a motion, seconded by Karen, to add that to the procedure. The motion passed. Wren also said they are having coverage issues due to illness but are working it out.

New Business—Keith McFarlane accepted the position of Library Director. He should begin sometime in mid-May. Jennifer contacted the other 2 people interviewed to inform them the position had been filled. She also thanked Ruth for housing Keith and his wife for 2 nights. Ruth questioned Wren about a potential reduction in federal funding for the libraries. Wren will inform us if that happens. Ruth suggested an orientation program for Keith. Wren is planning a booklet to aid with transition. Jennifer suggested a group training session now that we will have 3 new members and new director. She will contact VLA about scheduling a training for the BOT and Director possible on a Saturday in June. The next BOT meeting is May 20. Benjy will inform the BOS about the new library director hire.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm