



June 16, 2020 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on June 16, 2020 on the second floor of the Main Street Library.

Attending: K. Akins, R. Tench, P. Mercier, M. Frantz, T. Wright, M. Keeling, B. Dahlen, W. Barbour, N. Felton, S. Baker; S. Alcántara-Antoine, A. Jennings, C. Skeen and B. Hosler representing the Library.

Absent: T. Hammond, L. Atkins, D. Maahs, C. Samuels

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of February 18, 2020 Minutes

T. Wright motioned to approve the minutes. B. Dahlen seconded the motion. Minutes approved as written.

Nominating Committee Selection

R. Tench and T. Wright volunteered to serve on the Nominating Committee. The committee will meet virtually over the summer to nominate Board President and Vice President and will bring forward the nominees **when** the Board meets again in September.

Librarian's Report

COVID-19

During the recent COVID-19 pandemic, NNPL staff has been resilient, resourceful and creative with reinventing our service model by implementing touchless curbside pickup, a mobile Wi-Fi initiative and virtual programming. Late fines have been waived through August 1.

Macmillan Embargo

In March we received news that publisher Macmillan was going to cancel its purchasing embargo. Thank you to many of our board members who spoke out against this.

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Newport News Public Library

FY21 State Aid Budget

We also received support from the Board in reaching out to Senator Locke regarding state funding. All Libraries were awarded an additional 1.5 million in FY21. NNPL was set to receive \$14,000 of that. However, states' revenue has been impacted by the pandemic so this funding is on hold. There could also be cuts to our regular state aid for FY21.

FY21 City Operating Budget

The City's budget was formed before the pandemic and it officially passed. Expenditures are on hold and we are under a hiring freeze. Libraries currently has 13 vacancies. We were approved for an additional \$39,000 for more Wi-Fi hotspots and the City has approved NNPL to become a passport acceptance facility. There will be a \$35 fee for this service that would be counted as revenue. We were approved to add Sunday hours at Pearl Bailey Library. In order to accomplish this, we needed to look at how we could reassign staff. South Morrison Library is very underutilized and will be closed so that staff can be shifted to Pearl Bailey. We have decided to reopen South Morrison while Main Street is still undergoing renovation in order to offer computer access, but after that it will be shuttered permanently. Any technology training taking place there will be absorbed into other branches. Newport News Public Schools will continue to utilize the building for training and staffing needs.

New Business

Neisser Trust Funds

The Library does not have a complete total yet for FY20 as we are awaiting interest funds for June. The Main Street Library Manager will provide a full proposal this summer, to be submitted to City Council for appropriation. Tentatively, \$20,000 will be used for the "Say It Loud" exhibit series in the Virginia Room and \$10,000 for adult programming and digital media lab.

Summer Reading Program

The Library's summer reading program will be completely virtual this year. We recorded a PSA encouraging everyone to read one hour each week. Mayor Price, Police Chief Drew, Director of Libraries, and local NFL player Antoine Bethea participated in the video.

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Newport News Public Library

Main Street Library Renovations

A. Jennings presented an overview of the renovations taking place on the second floor of the Main Street Library. Last year community and staff meetings were held with the design team of Enteros and surveys were conducted to learn what was wanted and needed. Our community wanted more outlets, Makerspace, public meeting space, public study room, digital media lab, comfortable seating and better wayfinding. We want to make sure our signs have a purpose and are not unnecessarily duplicated. All of these improvements are being added. We will now have five separate rooms that can be used for small group meetings, studying, and/or tutoring. The digital media lab will offer photography, digital editing, and Photoshop/Adobe classes. The project is scheduled to be completed in July.

Following adjournment, B. Hosler of the Library gave a brief tour of the second floor additions. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, Director
Secretary, ex-officio

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