



# Newport News Public Library

## September 15, 2020 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on September 15, 2020, at the Main Street Library.

Attending: K. Akins, R. Tench, T. Wright, M. Keeling, W. Barbour, M. Frantz, D. Thomas, D. Dangerfield, N. Felton, S. Baker; S. Alcántara-Antoine, A. Jennings, C. Skeen, J. Curtis, and S. Henderson representing the Library.

Absent: T. Hammond, D. Maahs, C. Samuels, L. Atkins, P. Mercier, B. Dahling

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

### Approval of June 16, 2020 Minutes

The June 16, 2020 meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Library Board Appointments

City Council voted to approve appointment of two new members, D. Thomas and D. Dangerfield. The Board has two members exiting, D. Maahs and T. Hammond, both who have served for the past eight years. We thank them for their dedicated service.

### Nominating Committee

At our June meeting, we asked for members to be a part of the Nominating Committee. R. Tench and T. Wright met virtually during summer hiatus to nominate a slate of officers for the annual election. It is a one-year term for Chairperson and Vice Chairperson. The committee nominated K. Akins again for Chair and R. Tench for Vice Chair. The Board voted unanimously to approve the nominations.

### Old Business

*Neisser Trust Funds – S. Henderson of the Library*

At our June meeting, we provided the Board with a preliminary plan for use of the Neisser Trust funds and they gave their endorsement virtually in July. The plan to use the earned interest funds in FY21 was submitted and approved by City Council in August. \$21,000 will

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used for the next phase of the *Say It Loud Salute to the Southeast Community* project, \$9,000 for adult and youth programming, \$3,000 for Main Street's new Digital Lab, and \$6,726.25 for the Neisser Speaker Series. S. Henderson, Manager of the Main Street Library, gave a presentation outlining how the funds were put to use in FY20. Highlights included the Home Schoolers program; Knitting, Paint Club, Dad's fitness club, and six book clubs for adult programming; National Night Out, with an outdoor concert and 300 attendees; and the Jingtletown program, which partnered with the Menchville High School Drama Department and saw over 2000 in attendance. The Digital Media Lab will open October 5, 2020 and will provide equipment/software for music composition, podcasting, photography, digital video editing and more. Funds were also used to purchase supplies like Shutterstock and Envato. \$10,000 went toward creating the Whittaker Memorial Hospital Documentary, which will be featured as part of the *Say It Loud* project. This next phase will highlight an African American experience in Newport News.

## New Business

### *New ILS – J. Curtis of the Library*

In August, the Library migrated to a new Integrated Library System. The ILS is the software that houses our online catalog and patron data. We use it regularly for the majority of our functions, like maintaining inventory, cataloging, data analysis, renewals, holds and more. Our previous ILS had been in place since the 1990s and it was lagging behind and no longer competitive. Over the course of two years and with the help of a committee of staff members from Collection, IT and the branches, we chose the new ILS called Library Solutions 2, or LS2. Digital Services Manager, J. Curtis gave a brief overview of what this looks like and the functionality.

### *Board Member Engagement*

Board Chair K. Akins asked members to think about some ways to get more involved and bring to next meeting on October 20, at the Main Street Library.

## Librarian's Report

### *FY 20 Annual Report and Monthly Roundup*

Many of our statistics are down and took a hit due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, we did see an increase in our program attendees and digital downloads.

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Following adjournment, members were invited to take a brief tour of the completed second floor renovation. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "S. Alcántara-Antoine".

Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, Director  
Secretary, ex-officio

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