



## October 20, 2020 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on October 20, 2020, at the Main Street Library.

Attending: K. Akins, R. Tench, T. Wright, W. Barbour, B. Dahlen, C. Samuels, L. Atkins, D. Thomas, D. Dangerfield, N. Felton, S. Baker; S. Alcántara-Antoine, A. Jennings, and C. Skeen, representing the Library.

Absent: P. Mercier, M. Keeling, M. Frantz

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

### Approval of September 15, 2020 Minutes

D. Thomas made motion to approve the September 15, 2020 meeting minutes. L. Atkins seconded. Minutes approved.

### Board Member Engagement

Proposed changes and additions to the board committees were presented by the Board Chair, K. Akins to include expanding Bylaws Committee to include Nominating Committee, change Building and Grounds to Programs and Services, expand the Public Relations to include Advocacy, and keep the Budget Committee. The frequency of meetings for each committee was also proposed, with each meeting bi-annually or quarterly. Details and descriptions of possible activities and responsibilities of each was also mentioned. The board members were given the opportunity to discuss. Board members will email their top two choices for committees and selections will be made based on that. The Board will vote on changing bylaws to incorporate new committees at the November meeting. Question was asked which committee would be involved in the Huntington plan and that would be the PR/Advocacy committee. Youth representatives can sign up and start on a committee even though their term will be ending in December. They can help setup the charge/idea behind it and could continue to serve on committee even after board term is up.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES**

700 Town Center Drive, Suite 300 | Newport News, VA 23606 | 757- 926-1350 | F 757-926-1365



# Newport News Public Library

## Librarian's Report

### *CIP*

FY21 Capital Improvement Plan allows for funding for new roads, buildings, etc. Designers/architects will be selected to master plan the Sherwood Center and new Grissom Library. The plan for the new Grissom Library initially was to wait and begin after completion of Huntington Middle School. In the City Manager's recommended proposal, Grissom has been moved up to the top of the list. City Council will meet next Tuesday to vote on this. It's very important for our Library supporters to show up and advocate for this. Public can speak for three minutes, timed. Suggestion was given to do a presentation during the work session rather than public comment during the meeting, however, there will not be enough time to get on Tuesday's work session agenda.

City received 12 proposals through RFIP for architects. Library Director as well as other department directors such as Planning, Development, Engineering, are part of the group to make selection. Members of community and stakeholders are not yet involved but will be able to provide input later on. We will take amount and type of community engagement in proposals into consideration. Suggestion was made to invite City Council members to Grissom to show what is not working, specifically the ones Sonia has not toured with over the past few years. S. Antoine will email board members some talking points for Grissom Library to use. City Council chambers has limited seating capacity inside so arriving early was recommended. There are a few chairs in the hallway with video feed.

## 2021 Meeting Schedule

Currently the schedule consists of Main Street and Admin offices in City Center as alternating meeting locations. Main Street Library meeting room is really the only Library space available currently. Question was posed to the board regarding virtual meetings. Some feel in person offers more, some are tired of virtual while others would prefer it. Offering both can be tricky as far as having the ability to see and hear everyone. Next meeting will be November 17, 2020 at Main Street Library.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

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# Newport News Public Library

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "SAlcantara".

Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, Director  
Secretary, ex-officio

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