

Staunton Public Library
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
January 21, 2021

Call to Order, Attendance, and Presiding Officer's Remarks:

The meeting, held via teleconference, was called to order at 4:32 pm by Josh Howard.

Roll was called:

Present – board members Josh Howard, Cass Cannon, Virginia Trovato, Mark Peterson, Randolph Bertin, Library Director Sarah Skrobis, City Council Liaison Steve Claffey

Absent – none

Josh Howard recited the City's "Presiding Officer's Introduction".

Approval of Minutes:

Randolph Bertin made a motion to approve the minutes of the 17 December Meeting, which was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously via roll call vote.

Talking Book Center report:

Virginia provided a brief update on the TBC as follows:

- TBC engaged in a fundraiser.
- A Gutenberg machine is working.
- Greater than 20,000 items circulated.
- Appeared with favorable coverage in National Library Quarterly news.

Friends of Staunton Public Library report:

Sarah provided a brief update on the Friends as follows:

- Due to the pandemic the organization was inactive much of last year.
- New officers were elected in October. Joyce Shelenberger is the new president.
- They are planning to meet in the coming week and are working on ideas on how to accept donations.

Director's Report:

Sarah recapped the past month's activities at the library:

General

- The library reverted to curbside service on December 16 with operations running smoothly. Curbside services have been expanded to include scanning, copying and faxing.

- Staunton public library has been busier than other libraries in the Valley Libraries group in terms of circulation.
- The library is taking advantage of a grant program for laptops, which are on order and should become available in coming weeks.

Randolph inquired about the duration of computer checkout. As a reference point, Josh responded that JMRL checkout is up to eight hours.

Randolph asked whether any further input is needed on budget process. Sarah responded that no additional input is needed. Councilman Claffey added that city council would be working on budget approval over the next few months.

New Business:

Cass thanked Sarah for sending out the inaugural edition of the Virginia Public Library Trustee Handbook for Advisory Boards. Sarah asked if the board would like to review the Handbook at a future meeting and the response was positive (“Yes”).

Cass asked about the potential for the library to accept donations via curbside service and Sarah responded that fundraising is primarily handled by the Friends as well as the Staunton Public Library Foundation. She is hesitant to promote direct solicitation of funds to avoid patrons feeling like they ought to pay directly for any of the services.

Randolph asked whether the pop-up outdoor browsing section has been successful. Sarah stated they had done it three times, when the weather was cooperative with varying success in terms of materials checked out (ranging from 50 to 100).

Mark informed the board that he would be having to take a class for the next several months at the regular meeting time and suggested he might need to step down from the board. Sarah suggested they discuss the issue outside the meeting.

Adjournment:

Virginia moved to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded; the meeting concluded at 5:01 pm.

The next Library Board meeting will be 18 February at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Randolph Bertin