

Staunton Public Library
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
September 16, 2021

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

The meeting, held at Staunton Public library, was called to order at 4:31 pm by Josh Howard.

Roll was called:

Board Members Present – Randolph Bertin, Virginia Trovato, Josh Howard, Cass Cannon

Others Present – Library Director Sarah Skrobis, Friends of Staunton Library representative Kennon Bowen, City Council Liaison Steve Claffey

Absent – Mark Peterson

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes:

Josh made a motion to approve the minutes of the 19 August Meeting, which was seconded, and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Talking Book Center report

Virginia presented an update on the TBC, highlighting the following items:

- Due to the increasing prevalence of Covid-19 in the area, it was decided to postpone the fun run (originally scheduled for October) to next spring. TBC is looking for ways to celebrate their 40th anniversary coming up this fall, but it will probably not be in person.
- Financial and Business items: a large donation was received, and the board voted to move the money into its Davenport account.
- A board member resigned, opening a new space to be filled.

Friends of Staunton Public Library report

Kennon provided an update on the Friends, highlighting the following items:

- The Fall Book Sale is still scheduled to take place. Books may be dropped off on October 11 at the Gypsy Hill gym.
- The financial audits for 2019 and 2020 were completed.
- A new refrigerator was purchased for the staff break room.
- The annual meeting on Oct 26 will be held via zoom.
- The Friends adopted a Code of Ethics similar to the one adopted by the Library Board.
- There has been discussion about fixing up the current meeting room.
- The nominating process for Board Members is beginning.

- The Friends are donating the fee for the Library's Mail Chimp account (the threshold for having a free account has recently been exceeded).

Director's Report

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

General

- Continuing to take actions to address Covid-19 surge (masks being required again); so far no resistance has been encountered. All Valley libraries are requiring masks.
- There has been a social media push across all libraries to encourage safe use of libraries (curbside service, etc.). The puzzle table was removed, seating reduced, etc.
- Staunton Library is emphasizing grab and go messaging (over spending extended time in the library). This is hopefully temporary, but the situation in the area is serious.
- Outdoor programs are continuing, with appropriate physical distancing.
- The Library will continue to monitor the situation and make adjustments as necessary.
- A new page has been hired.
- Currently recruiting for technology specialist, issuing invitations to interview.
- Library of VA reported big delay at the state level for library disbursements. This would be a reimbursement for SPL expenditures. The computers we ordered are experiencing backorder delays in shipping.
- Major supply chain delays across the book publishing industry will possibly affect some new arrivals.
- Staunton Library Foundation is meeting next month. Cass is the liaison to that group.

Additional Q&A Regarding Library Operations:

No additional questions.

Old Business

1) Remote Participation – In response to recent questions from Advisory Board members about the adoption of a remote participation policy, city representatives indicated that the Library Advisory Board does NOT need to follow state requirements for a remote participation policy, because the Board does not provide advice to city council, advising only the librarian.

With no requirement to adopt a restrictive policy, Virginia stated that she did not see a downside in moving the meeting to an on-line platform: it would be safer, provide easier access, enable recording, etc. Josh agreed that given community wide efforts to minimize contact, meeting via zoom would be appropriate under the circumstances.

Josh moved that the October meeting be held via 'zoom', and that we decide at each meeting what the next meeting venue will be. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Sarah stated that she would make logistical arrangements for the October meeting.

When looking into the issue concerning remote participation policy, Sarah also discovered that there is apparently not a requirement for city council to appoint Library Advisory Board members (which is how members are currently appointed). While there are other library advisory boards in the state whose members are also appointed by their city councils, the Advisory Board could change to another appointment process if desired. The next step would be to discuss the appointment process with city manager Steven Rosenberg.

2) Programming policy

Cass moved that we approved the Library Programming Policy introduced at the last Advisory Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

New Business

1) No new business.

Adjournment:

Cass moved to adjourn the meeting, which concluded at 5:02 PM.

The next Library Board meeting is scheduled for 21 October at 4:30 PM via the zoom platform.

Respectfully submitted,
Randolph Bertin