

Staunton Public Library
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING NOTES
September 15, 2022

Call to Order, Attendance, and Recognition of Quorum

The meeting, held at Staunton Public Library, was called to order at 4:30pm by Randolph Bertin.

Board Members Present

- Randolph Bertin
- Jason Clarke
- Rebecca Cochran
- Cass Cannon
- Mark Peterson
- Virginia Trovato

Others Present

- Library Director Sarah Skrobis
- Friends of the Library Representative Joy Ingram
- City Council member Stephen Claffey
- Community Member visitor

A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Randolph made a motion to approve the minutes of the 18 August 2022 Meeting, which was seconded. Minutes were approved.

Reports

Friends of the Library Report

Sarah provided an updated from the Friends, highlighting the following items:

- They have stopped taking book donations and are now preparing for the book sale which will be Monday Oct 3- Friday Oct 7. Monday is preview night for Friends members. The rest of the week is open to the public.
- Audit is nearly completed.
- The Friends email newsletter has been sent, but there have been some email bounces, so they are working on getting the mailing list updated.

Talking Book Center Report

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

- October is Blindness Awareness Month.
- They are running the big Dine to Donate event in October which everyone is encouraged to attend.
- The TBC is also participating in events with United Way in Rockbridge County to attract new members as well as the Augusta County Senior Health Fair in November.

Library Director's Report

Sarah gave the following highlights in her report:

- The library has had two more resignations which means they are now hiring four new positions. Hopefully onboarding people within the next month based on application turnout.
- There have been a lot of behavior issues outside the library building, such as broken bottles, trash, and rock throwing. Sarah has spoken with the police to increase patrols to hopefully curb these behaviors.
 - Virginia suggested volunteer groups perhaps help with trash cleanup such as a youth group or YMCA or scouts.
- Events and library programs are going well with good turnout.
- Progress is being made on the strategic plan actions, including hopefully getting a chat reference service up and running soon.
- The Annual Report is in the works.
- As an aside, there was some discussion on the possibility and dream of a bookmobile. We all agree this would be wonderful, but it's not feasible right now as there are other priorities to focus on.

United for Libraries Report

Randolph presented highlights from his conference attendance. Key points:

- Intellectual freedom challenges - recent data shows that 40% of challenges are from parents, 24% are other patrons.
 - Norfolk Public Library was used as an example for good policies.
 - Randolph pointed out that our library policies aren't super easy to locate. Perhaps a link to the page would be easier, although Sarah doesn't have much freedom to change the website homepage. It is currently under About the Library. Suggestion to include "and policies" to the hyperlink on the homepage as a way to point these out more obviously. All agreed and Sarah will investigate this edit.
 - Conference presenters also recommended that all library staff should have consistent messaging around collections and considerations and be able to paraphrase the policies.

- Key ideas to keep in mind: library is a public service and our service is to provide information and we serve everyone with no restrictions.
- Highlights on what censorship is and the importance of a well-rounded collection.

Old Business

Public comment period procedure

- The library board reviewed the edits that Mr. Blair updated to reflect the modifications discussed at the last meeting. The policy was edited briefly and accepted by the board. It will be initiated starting at the next meeting in October.

Capital improvements

- Cass reports that the committee is still in the learning phase.
- She suggests that the board defines a charge.
- Sarah did a building walk through with Chris Hull, reaffirming the foundation and roof issues.
- There are a lot of new forms to fill out to start a CIP, so there's a lot of learning and waiting for answers. In the meantime, a Professional Architectural Study request will be submitted by Sarah to hopefully get some things rolling in terms of a building assessment.

New Business

City Council candidates' forum – library board rep w/ questions for candidates?

- The West End Business Association is hosting a forum on Tuesday, Sept 27 at 7pm at Marquis Memorial Church on W. Beverly St. There is a second in October.
- Virginia asks: do we want to have someone attend and ask questions?
- Randolph says: yes. The rep should ask questions about how the library can support services or how to do that. We will organize over email.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm

Respectfully submitted, Rebecca Cochran