

Staunton Public Library
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
October 17, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christy Davis. Also in attendance were board members Dan Swift and Mark Peterson, Sarah Skrobis, Library Director, JoAnn Tigert, Staunton Friends liaison and Evonne Hall an intern who is completing her MLIS practicum. Ilia Desjardins, TBC supervisor, made a brief appearance during the discussion of Talking Book Center activities.

The meeting was held in the Talking Book Center offices as the Friends of the Library fall Book Sale was ongoing in the public meeting rooms.

The minutes of the previous meeting August 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed and were accepted. There was no meeting held in September.

Talking Book Center report:

Ilia reported on events that the TBC participates in including the Queen City Mystery & Magic event in late September and White Cane Day on October 15. The Virginia DBVI is the local driver for White Cane Day locally which is designed to bring attention to the blind community via a walk through downtown Staunton. Dan noted that the TBC is assembling ideas for fundraising which will define some of the current-year activities.

Friends of the Library: JoAnn Tigert reported that the Friends had raised about \$400 as the sponsor for the Bingo at Bedlam Brewing fund-raiser in September. The Friends annual meeting will be held on October 22 with the featured speaker Andrew Richardson from the Frontier Culture Museum.

Director's Report: Sarah had distributed the September circulation and activity reports in advance of this meeting.

She noted that staff turnover and training continue to disrupt some activities, as five positions had turned over since the August report. All have since been filled.

New main floor furniture was received in mid-September, the furniture paid for by contributions from the Staunton Library Foundation and the Staunton Friends.

Several new programs have recently kicked off – Craft Swap, a GerriFit exercise program for seniors, a True Crime discussion club, Google classes, a Rock & Roll Storytime class and the Great Stories Club, an ALA grant-funded series for underserved teens.

The new Staunton assistant city manager, Leslie Beauregard, visited the library for a briefing and walk-around.

Foundation Report: Christy gave a brief report on the October 9 meeting of the Staunton Library Foundation. Scott & Stringfellow, the firm involved in investing the foundation's current funds, reported on the investments. The Foundation currently has assets of \$1.6 million. The foundation is still looking on how to acknowledge retired library director Ruth Arnold for her years of service. The recently-completed reading area on the main floor will be tagged with an appreciation to her though details are not finalized. Suggestions from the Board?

Library Budget Cycle: Sarah noted that they received \$147,000-\$150,000 in state aid last year and the year before and noted that we need to strategize how to increase aid. (The board had earlier discussed the lag in Virginia full funding at its June 20, 2019 Advisory Board meeting. Notes from that meeting suggested that we make funding a focus at the April 2021 Joint Board Retreat – with August and Waynesboro --which the Staunton Library will host.

New Business: Board member Lisa Brooks has indicated to Dan Swift that she wishes to resign. Attempts by Sarah to confirm that through emails has been unsuccessful. Christy said she would attempt to contact her and move the process along.

Sarah noted that there is a new Trustees Handbook available through the Library of Virginia. (2019 edition link is:

<https://www.lva.virginia.gov/lib-edu/LDND/PublicLibraryTrusteeHandbook19FINAL.pdf>

Sarah will meet with the Staunton city council at either their work session or the open meeting on November 14.

Sarah will be on vacation from November 15 to November 29.

Next meeting will be December 19, 2019 at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Swift
Secretary