

Staunton Public Library
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
June 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chair Christy Davis. Also in attendance were board members Dan Swift, Josh Howard and Mark Peterson, Sarah Skrobis, Library Director, and JoAnn Tigert, Friends of the Library liaison.

The minutes of the previous meeting March 21, 2019 meeting were unavailable.

Talking Book Center report:

Dan brought the board up to date on the TBC and its recent award naming it the NLS subregional library of the year. Sarah Skrobis accompanied the staff to Washington, DC to receive the award. A celebration of the accomplishment was being held today in the Library Meeting room and was attended by several city council members and other notables as well as a couple TBC patrons.

Dan also commented on some TBC operational matters dealing with budgeting for the next fiscal year starting July 1. Commitments from the Community Foundation and the United Ways have been received but are far below requested amounts.

Friends of the Library: Jo Ann Tigert reported on the Spring Book Sale which netted approximately \$4,500. She also noted that while they continue to receive plentiful book donations, many books are in such poor condition that many have to be immediately discarded for recycling.

Director's Report: Sarah distributed circulation and activity reports for April and May in advance of this meeting. She had received a scholarship to attend the Research Institute for Public Libraries (RIPL) seminar in Richmond. The seminar was a boot camp that addressed collecting, analyzing and disseminating data to create responsive library services and initiatives.

She noted also they had recently entered into a partnership with the Shakespeare Center. She also brought the board members up to speed on the progress of the first-floor rehab. She noted while the new circulation desk was in place and operational, they still hadn't completed the full change over. New furniture for that space is on order and they expect to finish the project soon.

Sarah also noted some recent city and library personnel changes. Steve Rosenberg has been named the new City Manager, succeeding Steve Owen. Rosenberg was previously the assistant city manager, so she was expecting an easy transition. The library has hired a new cataloger. Also, Christina Harris, a circulation assistant, is leaving the staff but is joining Mary Baldwin University in a professional librarian position focusing on Outreach. Sarah is optimistic that that move will strengthen the city-college ties.

Joint Boards Retreat: Sarah started the conversation about the joint boards retreat that was held in Waynesboro in April. Staunton had the best attendance of any of the libraries. Generally, the highlights were the library reports, noting especially the StoryWalk program at the Augusta County Library. Discussion then turned to next year's joint session since Staunton will host in 2020. Since library funding is a constant topic for all boards and libraries, it was decided to focus on the push for full library funding, since Virginia is far off the mark. Perhaps invite a VLA lobbyist to speak about funding strategies and how local boards can influence the process. Sarah committed to taking the lead on this.

New Business: A brief discussion followed regarding electronic resources available to library patrons, Overdrive, Hoopla, RBDigital, and so forth.

The meeting adjourned at 5:04 P.M.

Next meeting will be July 18, 2019 at 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Swift
Secretary