

FAIRFAX COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 8, 2015

Chair Charles Fegan called the meeting to order at 7 p.m.

I. Public Comments

Jennifer McCullough, President, Fairfax County Public Library Employees' Association – commented that the proposed budget will result in fewer staff, services and the collection. Library staff are needed to greet patrons, answer phones, issue library cards and handle a variety of book requests. More staff is needed to reach the people we don't serve yet but who may need us the most. We need to reverse budget trends that have negatively affected the collection and services.

Pamela Chin – commented that the cross-county Friends groups work hard but are under-utilized. A panel of Friends reps can be formed to work together with the Board of Trustees, library admin, library branch management and staff, in order to identify and target appropriate and specific goals for the Friends groups to achieve -- meaningful goals that have tangible and measurable outputs. And it's not necessary to wait for the arrival of the next director to start making progress.

II. Minutes – motion accepted to approve the minutes of the March 2015 meeting.

III. Chair's Report –

- Thanked the board members for their dedication.
- Chair Fegan delivered his comments at the budget public meeting on April 7, 2015 and was well received. His basic theme was for the County to succeed with the Economic Development Committee to promote the County to respective corporations, with the Library being a main sales point. We must give a good product to sell.
- The grand re-opening of the Woodrow Wilson Library was the best ever. Congratulations to Liz Clements, Supervisor Penny Gross, Chairman Sharon Bulova, most of all Liz Clements.
- Board workshop to be held Saturday, May 2, 2015. Kim Armentrout, Library of Virginia, will conduct the workshop beginning at 9 a.m. The theme will be duties of the Library Board and an instruction on interview procedures for Board members' responsibility in the interview process for a new Library Director. It will be a working session with no participation from the audience.
- Nominating committee appointed are Dr. Joseph Sirh, Chairman and Suzanne Levy. Board members will send an email to either committee member by May 1, 2015. Present Chair and Vice-Chair are eligible for re-election. The representative for the Foundation has asked to be relieved of responsibility.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Library Foundation – Michael Donovan – no report.
- B. Budget Committee – Michael Donovan – thanked board members for attending the budget public meeting on April 7, 2015 when Chair Fegan spoke before the Board of Supervisors.
- C. Memorandum of Understanding Committee – Mr. Donovan reports continue to update the MOU. The committee has created a chart outline responsibilities of both parties. The chart will

- be reviewed by library administration. Once approved, Mr. Donovan has offered to meet with each Friends Group to discuss the chart. Chair Fegan thanked Mr. Donovan for his hard work.
- D. Planning Committee – Ms. Dando – help preliminary meeting to review the RFP process for call for proposals in order to implement the survey regarding public libraries. This will be the last time to report due to a non-disclosure agreement will be signed. Grateful to have Don Heinrichs on the committee as well as assistance from Melanie Quinn, Library Deputy Director.
 - E. FCPL Director Search Committee – Karrie Delaney – Thanked County Human Resources for their assistance. Presented the Class Specification for Library Director position. Ms. Delaney moved that the Board approve the Class Specification for the Director of County Library position in order to allow the Board of Trustees Ad Hoc Director Search committee to work from the Class Specification. Ayes were unanimous, the motion carried.
 - F. Privacy Committee – committee member, Priscille Dando, read excerpts from the American Library Association’s Code of Ethics and Bill of Rights detailing privacy guidelines for customers. Ms. Dando moved that the Library Board adopt a privacy policy that governs holds procedures in alignment with the American Library Association Code of Ethics and Library Bill of Rights. After board discussion, the motion was put to a vote. The ayes were unanimous and the motion carried.

V. Director’s Report

- 1. Holds Labels / Privacy Update – discussed above in Ms. Dando’s report.
- 2. Board of Supervisors Budget Committee committee met twice recently, Mar. 17 and Mar. 31. The next steps in the budget process are the mark-up on April 22 and formal adoption on April 29.
- 3. Response to Questions on the FY 2016 Budget – It is routine to get questions from the Supervisors related to specific budget questions. Attachment 4, Page 45 is a reply to Supervisor Cook related to the gift fund. You also have a handout which is a reply to Supervisor Foust related to library spending per capita in the metro area.
- 4. Reston Regional Friends Group Donation for Children’s Materials - On Mar. 19 the Friends of the Reston Regional Library presented a check for \$25,000 to the library to support the purchase of popular children’s series books. This was also the first day of the Reston Friends semi-annual children’s book sale. The donation is very much appreciated.
- 5. Tysons-Pimmit Temporary Location – A group from the library, along with Darren Ewing, toured a couple of temporary locations. Both had pros and cons. Asked by Mr. Ewing to explore a storefront location in the nearby Trader Joe’s shopping center. We will be exploring this option in the next few weeks and will provide more details.
- 6. **Censoring** - While this wasn’t on the agenda, I would like to add a few remarks about the latest library issue you may have heard about. Some are saying that the library is “censoring” our employees. We recently began moderating all ten of the library’s blogs to comply with county policy. Some employees were posting items with information from and/or links to political organizations. These types of postings or comments are not permitted under county guidelines. If an employee submits an item that is political in nature, it will not be added to the blogs. We still welcome and support all articles and information that are not political in nature.

VI. Roundtable

Ms. Levy – questioned why it is taking so long for meeting minutes to post to the public website.

Dr. Sirh – thanked library volunteers for their service. He is looking forward to the board workshop.

Mr. Jasper – congratulated library volunteers and thanked them for their service.

Ms. Dando – was thrilled to be at the Woodrow Wilson Library re-opening and to see all the buzz and excitement. Congratulated behind the scenes folks who work tirelessly – branch, administration, and volunteers.

Ms. Delaney – thanked and congratulated library volunteers for essential contributions. Congratulated Liz Clements and all involved with the Woodrow Wilson Library re-opening.

Mr. Heinrichs – thanked library volunteers. Sherwood Regional Library Branch Manager Linda Schlekau will honor local volunteers next month.

Mr. Donovan – congratulated tonight’s volunteers. Attended volunteer lunch this afternoon at Kings Park. Also attended a joint Friends of Kings Park Library/Friends of Burke Centre Library meeting. Notes were compared and discussed.

Ms. Clements – congratulated library volunteers. Friends of George Mason Regional Library book sale is April 23 through April 26. Ms. Clements announced her retirement from the Library Board. She was very interested in establishing strong links between the Fairfax County Public Library and the Fairfax County Public Schools. A member of Friends of the George Mason Regional Library for 30 years. Friends Groups support and good will are invaluable to Fairfax County. Library branches are the most important part of our library system. Both the professional librarians (MLS) and the paraprofessionals (circulation staff) are the face of the Fairfax Government to thousands of patrons. Ms. Clements introduced Fran Millhouser as her successor.

Chair Fegan stated on behalf of the Board of Trustees and Library Administration, thanked Ms. Clements for her dedication to the system, advice and guidance, always on the front line, and wished her the best of luck.

Chair Fegan adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Members Present

Sam Clay
Charles Fegan
Karrie Delaney
Priscille Dando
Liz Clements
Will Jasper
Michael Donovan
Don Heinrichs
Dr. Joseph Sirh
Suzanne Levy

Members Absent

Darren Ewing
Michael Cutrone

Respectfully Submitted:

Approved:

Edwin S. Clay III
Library Director

Charles Fegan, Chairman
FCPL, Board of Trustees