

Summary – Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees

February 7, 2017

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Sharon Bulova, Chairman
Penelope Gross, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
John Cook, Braddock District
John Foust, Dranesville District
Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Catherine Hudgins, Hunter Mill District
Jeff McKay, Lee District (Committee Chair)
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Library Board of Trustees Present:

Karrie Delaney, Chairman, Sully District
Michael Donovan, Braddock District (Vice Chairman)
Darren Ewing, Dranesville District
Fran Millhouser, Mason District
Yearn Hong Choi, Springfield District
Sheila Janega, Hunter Mill District
Miriam Smolen, Providence District
Gary Russell, Mount Vernon District
Suzanne Levy, City Of Fairfax
Charles A Fegan, At-Large
Priscille Dando, School Board

February 7, 2017 Meeting Agenda:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/board-committees/meetings/2017/feb7-library-board-of-trustees-agenda.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 A.M.

Chairman Bulova started the meeting with introductions of all present and welcomed the Library Board of Trustees to the joint meeting.

Library Board Chairman Delaney provided an introduction on behalf of the Trustees and shared some of the Trustee's recent accomplishments. She said that the Library Board received the Board of Supervisors request to conduct a comprehensive outreach effort for the citizens of Fairfax County and that the Library Board has received a completed report from an outside vendor on that topic. The information in

the report will guide priority setting and help with the formation of the new Strategic Plan under the direction of the Library Director and the Board's ad hoc planning committee.

The Board also had a Board Retreat on January 28, 2017 and set their priorities for the coming years. Those priorities are collection development, technology and localized programming.

Chairman Bulova then welcomed new Library Director Jessica Hudson and asked her introduce herself. Director Hudson shared that both she and the Library Board were pleased to get the opportunity to meet with the Board of Supervisors. Director Hudson has had an exceptionally positive experience with Library staff, the Board and the community so far, and congratulated previous Library Director Clay on the excellent job he did of building a well-rounded staff.

The floor was then opened for comments and questions from both Boards.

Supervisor Herrity spoke about his constituents wanting the library to increase hours and asked if that was on the list of priorities; a brief discussion followed regarding library hours and how they play into the other priorities the Library Board set. Supervisor Herrity also raised a question about privatization of the library to increase resources and hours.

Chairman Bulova stated that privatization was not something the Library Board could consider on its own.

Supervisor Cook asked about the makeup of the current library collection, specifically how resources are allocated between print and digital collections. Director Hudson shared that the library has about 2.5 million print volumes and about 40,000 eBooks, which a budget of approximately \$3-\$4 million per year on collection development in all formats. A follow-up memo on the topic was requested.

Supervisor Gross brought up a few suggestions from her constituents. They included Sunday hours, story hours without registration, that foreign languages books should return to their original owning library and to make sure each library has a collection of classic items.

Supervisor McKay stated that as we move forward with CIPs we need to think about meeting space we have available for the public to use. The Supervisor also thanked the Library Board for their service and mentioned they are doing a great job.

Library Board Chairman Delaney addressed the fact that as we move forward, libraries will have to design with the uncertainty of technology needs and planning to accommodate the unknown.

Trustee Choi said the library has to be able to adjust the resources to fit the needs of users and it's the job of the Library Board to be advocates for the Library system, but to also recognize that there are other services and libraries in the community so the public library doesn't have to fit every need.

Supervisor Hudgins appreciated the conversation she had with Trustee Janega about the Gum Springs Library in Loudon County, which was built in the bottom of an office building as part of a partnership.

Supervisor Foust recommended that the library looks at the BOS Economic Success Plan as it moves ahead with their new Strategic Plan. Library Board Chairman Delaney said the Board is already looking for ways in which the library can further link to the economic success of the county.

Trustee Fegan thanked the Board of Supervisors for initiating the comprehensive outreach process. He spoke to the idea of privatization, and said that any discussion on that should start with the Supervisors, not the Library Board. He talked about the budget process, and the time that the Library Board is given to make critical decisions.

Trustee Ewing reiterated that with limited resources, it is hard to maintain a complete collection.

Trustee Millhouser spoke to the library's collection, and that floating the collection may not best serve the needs of all users or branches.

Supervisor Smyth reiterated that library staff are extremely valuable, even as the library focuses more on technology.

Chairman Bulova thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said there would be more to discuss after the advertised budget is released on February 14, 2017.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 A.M.