

Summary – Joint Meeting of the Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees
September 18, 2018

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
Kathy Smith, Sully District
Linda Smyth, Providence District
Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District

Library Board of Trustees Present:

Miriam Smolen, Chairman, Providence District
Fran Millhouser, Mason District (Vice Chairman)
Priscille Dando, School Board
Brian Engler, Braddock District
Darren Ewing, Dranesville District
Sheila Janega, Hunter Mill District
Suzanne Levy, City of Fairfax
Jane Miscavage, At-Large
Stella Pekarsky, Sully District
Phil Rosenthal, Springfield District
Gary Russell, Mount Vernon District

September 18, 2018 Meeting Agenda:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2018/sept18-library-board-agenda.pdf>

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 p.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 Smolen provided an introduction on behalf of the Trustees and shared some of the Trustee's recent accomplishments.

Library Director Jessica Hudson presented the library's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan. Community outreach was the focus of the two staff committees work on the plan. The Board of Trustees also had a

committee which was kept up to date during the process of drafting the plan, and which approved the various pieces of the plan as they were developed.

Chairman Bulova congratulated the library on the plan and shared that she liked the format and the simplicity of the poster for staff work areas and for patrons. She said that other strategic plans in the county should use the library's plan as a guide.

Supervisor Gross also commented on the plan. She asked if the library's values were in a ranked order. Director Hudson replied that they are not. Supervisor Gross asked for examples of the ephemera collections. Director Hudson mention a few such as the thermal cameras and Nature Backpacks. Supervisor Gross feels that with floating, the Thomas Jefferson Library is losing some of its important Vietnamese collection. Director Hudson spoke to the reason for floating in the system and why floating is used and periodically reviewed.

Supervisor McKay expressed concern about unequal distribution of books under floating. Director Hudson shared that systems are in place to make sure an equitable distribution of books remains at different branches. Discussion also turned to the leveling off of circulation for print materials, and the rise of circulation for digital materials.

Trustee Ewing asked for follow up on the efficiencies of the holds system and for staff to share information on the Institute of Museum and Library Services report on how the Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) compares to its peers. Director Hudson shared information about the report, which shows that although FCPL owns fewer books per person than comparable jurisdictions, circulation is much higher. The holds process in FCPL are free and is a well utilized service. Supervisor Gross expressed concern that patrons will come to the library for books in other language and the books won't be there because they have floated to another branch.

Supervisor Smyth talked about placement of books in other locations such as Rec Centers. The library does have collections at various locations such as little free libraries in districts office and at the jail for children to read when visiting relatives.

Supervisor Storck talked about the opportunities to integrate the library in shared uses space. Lorton Library is pairing with the community center. Supervisor Stork also spoke to being on vacation and went to a library that rented out non-book items such as ski poles and bicycles. Director Hudson talked about the co-location for Lorton. As bond referendums come up, the county is looking at colocations for libraries and other services. The library has innovation as a goal, but does not want to lose the core value of its services. Innovation can include what is lent to customers and how to reach current non-library users.

Trustee Levy talked about services being offered such as the Memory Depot at the City of Fairfax Regional Library and the Sherwood Regional Library. The Virginia Room has also recently worked on several digitization projects to capture local documents and photographs and make them more publicly available.

Trustee Engler thanked Supervisor Cook for appointing him. He shared that Kings Park Library as well as three others have 3D printers that customers can send in projects to get printed. The Braddock District has two community libraries but does not have a branch open on Sundays, so he asked the Supervisors to continue to consider consistent hours.

Chairman Bulova asked the Trustees what they feel is the greatest need in their districts.

Trustee Pekarsky talked about the use of the library from students who walk to the library in her district. She shared resources available from the Access Services branch, serving those with vision and hearing impairments. She said the greatest needs in her district are the collection and hours of service.

Trustee Smolen and Director Hudson talked about challenges related to the prices of eBooks and the demand of publishers. eBooks are not purchased, they are leased, as compared to a physical copy that can last longer, and the costs are multiple times that of print materials.

Trustee Ewing talked about the usage of the libraries in his district. He also expressed the greatest needs are the collection and hours of service.

Trustee Janega talked about how important programming is for the community.

Trustee Rosenthal talked about the need to get the word of the services the library offers out to the community.

Trustee Miscavage shared that the Library Board is going to do a better job at keeping the Supervisors informed as to what is going on in local branches and the library as a whole. She asked that the library is kept in mind as part of the One Fairfax initiative. Sunday hours is a need for all branches; she asked if the Boards together could work to figure a way to keep all libraries open seven days a week.

Supervisor Gross expressed that consistent hours have been an issue her entire time on the board. She said community libraries need to have more staff to have consistent hours.

Supervisor Herry said that expanded hours are more of a need than the collection.

Supervisor McKay offered that a way to get more users is to look at a model used by DC where there is one card which functions as a student's ID, library card, transportation pass, and recreation center pass. He feels co-locations need to be a priority even if the Capital Improvements Plan timing does not match up. He expressed that his office had Facebook posts on the library that went viral.

Trustee Dando thanked Supervisor McKay for saying that there is a need for a One Card program similar to DC. The DC One Pass for students has been a success. In Fairfax, FCPL and the schools are working on a system for students to have access to the public library with a virtual card, which would accrue no fines. A pilot launch is in the works.

Supervisor Hudgins thanked the library for the services they offer. She is looking forward to the Reston Regional Library renovation to find opportunities to better serve the community. She suggested that children should get able to receive a library card when they get a birth certificate. She said that the county needs to encourage proffers and other models to encourage more facilities the community.

Chairman Bulova summarized the major themes of the meeting. Consistent hours as well as Sunday hours is a need. She said at the next Board of Supervisors meeting she is going to pose a challenge to staff about what would it take to increase library hours, implement a One Card program, and better align the CIP with community needs, and generate more co-locations.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.