

Board of Trustees - Powhatan County Library

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Library Small Conference Room

Page 1 of 3

Attending: Joanne Fico-Chair, Geri Venable-Vice Chair, Randy Schulkers-Treasurer, Susan Ash-Secretary; Trustees: Janice Epperson, Jacqueline Henshaw-Anderson, Betsy Mueller; Chandra McPherson-Library Director Public: none

Call to Order: Chair Joanne Fico called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM

Minutes: Upon a motion by Jacqueline, seconded by Geri, the minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting were voted unanimously approved.

Financial Reports: A review was presented by Chandra.

The fish tank, which is so popular in the children's area, was leaking and has been replaced with a larger tank and more fish.

There being no more comments or questions, it was moved by Jacqueline, seconded by Janice, and unanimously voted in favor to accept the financial report.

Director's Report: Director Chandra McPherson gave the following report:

Activities:

- The monthly staff meeting was held 2/14.
- I attended the County's Leadership Team meeting 2/21.
- Updated job descriptions were given to Human Resources. I had a Zoom interview with the company doing the County's compensation study 2/22.
- I attended a contract update meeting for our e-book consortium. There will be no increase in the contract charges.
- Our upgraded program and reservation calendar was launched 3/1. We are replacing all links on the website and working with the County's website staff to be sure all links are correct.
- Our work program students from the high school started 3/1, and will be here twice a week for the month of March.
- E-rate grants were certified for FY24, and we have added more of the services we use to those grants so we should get nearly twice the grant money as in previous years. We had time to also ask for financial help with replacing the server, so that third grant ask is still in process.
- We sent our first boxes of books to Baker & Taylor for store credits through the Sustainable Shelves program.

Ongoing & Upcoming:

- We will attend an outreach event at the high school on 3/16.
- We will host the County's kindergarten students as part of their Community Helpers Field

Trip on 3/23, 3/28, 3/29, and 3/30.

- We are currently advertising for the part time children's librarian and for more sub library aides.
- We are working on a grant, the AARP Community Challenge Grant, for maker space equipment, such as a 3D printer.
- I am attending the Spring Virginia Public Library Directors Meeting March 30-31.
- [Graphic was included] showing the past year's nonfiction purchases, part of an ongoing collection analysis. 17% of the new books purchased in the past year (Feb 2022 – Feb 2023) were Nonfiction.

In addition to the above report, Chandra added:

- The shelving furniture should be in next week and installed.
- GED evening classes will be starting soon, this will be ongoing and is an addition to the day classes.
- The new website is about 50% complete.

Patron Statistics: Chandra McPherson presented the report.

There was an increase in the database use which is thought to be the result of passing out a factsheet at a recent parent function at school.

Friends Report: Joanne said the next Friend's meeting is March 21st, and the Trustees are welcome.

Public Comments: No public was in attendance, and therefore no comments.

New Business: none.

Old Business:

- The Materials Policy was reviewed with changes highlighted.

Jacqueline suggested that under Genealogy and Local History, reference to Library of Virginia and FamilySearch be removed. The reasoning being if these resources change in the future then the Policy will not need to be amended.

There being no more comments or questions, it was moved by Joanne, seconded by Randy, and unanimously voted in favor to approve the Materials Policy as amended.

- Jacqueline presented her finding on her review of books within our library about Supreme Court Justices. Her findings were presented on a handout. Eleven Justices were sighted, and all book formats included. Her results, in number of books:

Ginsberg – 23	Jackson - 0
Scalia – 1	Kagan - 0
Alito – 0	Kavanaugh - 0
Barrett – 1	Roberts - 0
Gorsch – 0	Sotomayor – 5
	Thomas – 1

She did note that there were no books on Sandra Day O’Connor, the first female Justice, and asked that this be added particularly within the children’s section. A discussion ensued about the balance of conservatism vs. liberal books, and the manner in which books are chosen for the library. Jacqueline added that the community speaks to her wanting a balanced offering.

At the conclusion of the discussion Joanne presented her findings on a search for Presidents within our library. Her findings indicated that there is a balanced offering. There was a larger quantity of books on Kennedy and also Trump than other Presidents.

Next meeting: April 12, 2023, at 5:30 PM.

Adjourn meeting: Meeting was moved to adjourn at 6:47 PM by Joanne Fico, seconded by Betsy, unanimously voted in favor.

Submitted by Susan Ash
Secretary