



January 17, 2023 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on January 17, 2023, in the meeting room of the Main Street Library.

Attending: D. Dangerfield, T. Wright, K. Akins, D. Thomas, C. Samuels, L. Atkins, R. Lynch, W. Barbour, J. Meyer, A. Crawford, M. Whyte; A. Jennings, S. Henderson, J. Wagner, and C. Skeen representing the Library.

Absent: B. Dahlen, R. Tench, D. Hopkins

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. The meeting met quorum.

Welcome Newly Appointed Youth

Chair D. Dangerfield welcomed one of the two new youth members appointed in December. Madison Whyte joins the board from Heritage High School where she is a senior.

Approval of November 15, 2022 Minutes

November minutes were approved as written.

2023 We Stand For Justice Program presentation – J. Wagner, Senior Librarian

“We Stand For Justice” is a salute to local African American heroes and part of the Main Street Library’s Say It Loud Project. The Main Street Library will be hosting an event on February 11, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Three local heroes; Irma B. Thompson, Oscar Pretlow and William Davis Butts will be added to the wall display. The program will include live music performances, a reception with light hors d’oeuvres and an unveiling of the honorees photos. D. Dangerfield commented that she attended the “We Stand For Justice” event last year and found it very informative and she highly encourages all to attend.

Wendell Barbour asked a question regarding the lawsuit that took place over the matter of the desegregation of the West Avenue Library, and how was it possible that the

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Library was still segregated. City law still allowed for segregation of public spaces at that time.

Librarian's Report

a. Committee Updates

The Programs and Services Committee met this month through Zoom and K. Akins reported out on this meeting. NNPL Program Coordinator, Wendy Bright shared information with members regarding Creative Bug and the new virtual sessions with bestselling authors that will be offered through the VPLC partnership. Youth Services held a Braiding and Bonding program last fall that was very well attended and they will offer another one next month. The Libraries will hold programs in February for Black History month and Valentine's Day, such as Blind Date Books – books are wrapped and patron's select books based only on the written description. There will also be a black history storyteller program, titled "Rhythm of the Story". There is Friday night gaming offered twice a month at Pearl Bailey Library, via the Twitch platform and a six-week program for ESL.

The Public Relations and Advocacy committee met this month through Zoom, and D. Thomas reported out on this meeting. She has invited Director, A. Jennings to speak with the local groups such as the Woman's Club of Hilton Village and the Rotary Club. This will assist with getting the word out to the public about the Libraries. This committee will also assist with working with the Director on the annual report as we get closer to the summer.

The Budget committee met last quarter to review budget submissions that were due by December 2, 2022. The full budget will be approved by City Council no later than June 15. Libraries along with Human Services and Parks and Recreation are part of our shared leadership network. We are requesting \$35,000 in funds for programming. We should be receiving a slight increase in what we receive from the State this year.

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b. November and December Monthly Roundup

The Libraries first Local Author Showcase took place in November, and the programs at all three branches were very well attended. There were panel discussions with the authors as well as book signings. We also held NaNo Wrimo writer's workshop for the annual creative writing event. The branches still have COVID test kits available and they continued to be in high demand. Our Outreach team visited the Four Oaks Day Center to help patrons create holiday cards for their families. A. Jennings will check to see if additional help is needed to assist with the greeting cards program in the future. For our annual **Can Your Fines** event, we waived \$1,135.24 in fines in exchange for donated items and 18 items returned. We were able to provide 790 meals through the Food Bank of the Peninsula for families. Our Outreach team, along with our Dani Duck mascot, went on site to McIntosh Elementary School while they provided lunches to Richneck Elementary students and engaged the youth. Outreach will return to visit for the rest of the week and also hand out books to the students.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:35 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anita Jennings', is written over a horizontal line.

Anita Jennings, Director
Secretary, ex-officio

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