



## February 21, 2023 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on February 21, 2023, in the James Room of the Library Administrative office building.

Attending: D. Dangerfield, K. Akins, R. Tench, B. Dahlen, R. Lynch, J. Meyer; A. Jennings, S. Henderson, C. Temple, and C. Skeen representing the Library.

Absent: T. Wright, D. Thomas, C. Samuels, L. Atkins, W. Barbour, A. Crawford, D. Hopkins, M. Whyte

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. The meeting did not meet quorum.

### January 17, 2023 Minutes

January minutes were reviewed by members present but could not be approved.

### Youth Services Update – C. Temple, Youth and Community Engagement Member

Kyle, a representative of the local DeGood Foundation met with the Library Director and Mrs. Temple regarding Dolly Parton's Imagination Library project. We participated in this program last year, however it was only the 23605 and 23607 zip codes in the southeast community that were eligible recipients. They are now able to offer the program to the entire city and at no cost to us. Parents of preschool age children (from birth to 5) can sign up to receive a free book sent to their home each month. They will receive one book for each child. Parents can sign up online, mail in their application or return to the Library and books will arrive within 8 to 10 weeks. The foundation will send a representative each month to collect applications and refill stands. They are also providing displays with preapproved graphics to be posted in the branches. We will also have our Outreach Team distribute applications when they visit various partners and sites.

We are approaching the time for our annual Battle of the Books competition. It is open to 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders across the various Peninsula schools. The teams consist of six

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students. The preliminary round will take place February 26, 2023, at the Denbigh Community Center. The top three teams will advance to the City finals, which will be March 7, 2023 at Main Street, and then the regional contest around the middle of May, held at the Williamsburg Regional Library. With the exception of last year, a school from Newport News has taken the trophy at the elementary school level. This year we have four participating elementary schools and two middle schools.

The NNPL mascot, Dani Duck has been very popular at City appearances. We would like to have Dani start gifting a free book when a child comes into the Library to encourage visitation and engagement. We will be giving away extra paperback Scholastic books that we have on hand from the Mayor's Book Club. The idea is to create currency, such as a Dani "buck" or Dani dollar that the children can cash in for their book.

#### Librarian's Report and January Monthly Roundup

Programming highlights included a cooking class for kids to teach them how to make healthy snacks without cooking with a stove. At the new Pearl Bailey Library, there will be a demonstration kitchen for children and teens to utilize. This is projected to be completed by the end of 2024. We are continuing our STEM programs and held a pajama storytime. We introduced Creative Bug platform for crafting, a virtual author talk series, and Working with DNA: Finding Your Family, a program using Ancestry.com.

The Collection Services team is working on evaluating our collection for content, format and space needs and our ILL services have resumed. We will be starting work on the first floor renovations at Main Street in the next few months.

The video created for the "Until Freedom Comes" ceremony was shown. The "We Stand For Justice" event is in its fourth year and was held at Main Street last Saturday to induct the three new local African American honorees. Their descendants were present as well as members of the local 8888 shipbuilding chapter. The exhibit is on display at City Hall until the end of the month. The program has been aired on local NNTV.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Anita Jennings", is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Anita Jennings, Director  
Secretary, ex-officio

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