



Newport News Public Library

May 17, 2022 Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees met on May 17, 2022, in the James Room of the Administrative Office.

Attending: R. Tench, D. Dangerfield, T. Wright, P. Mercier, D. Thomas, M. Frantz, K. Akins, L. Atkins, C. Samuels, R. Lynch, D. Butler; A. Jennings, C. Temple and C. Skeen representing the Library.

Absent: B. Dahlen, W. Barbour, W. Driscoll

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

Approval of March 17, 2022 Minutes

P. Mercier motioned to approve the meeting minutes. M. Frantz seconded. Minutes were approved.

New Business

The Board of Trustees welcomed R. Lynch as the new Newport News Public School Representative. She has lived in Newport News for almost 40 years and worked in the school district for over 25 years. She is a big advocate for Libraries.

As of June, M. Frantz and P. Mercier will have reached their term limit and are ineligible to continue to serve on the board. R. Tench stated we will be sorry to see them leave and expressed appreciation for their service over the years. L. Atkins, C. Samuels, W. Barbour, and B. Dahlen are all eligible for reappointment. Please let us and/or City Clerk's office know if you wish to serve another term.

Summer Reading Challenge Overview – C. Temple, Youth and Community Engagement Manager

The challenge will run from June 20 to July 31. Last year NNPL reached the goal of 500,000 total minutes read. This year, our goal will be to top last year's final tally.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

700 Town Center Drive, Suite 300 | Newport News, VA 23606 | 757- 926-1350 | F 757-926-1365



Newport News Public Library

The theme for this year's challenge is Read for Your Life: this implies that we all must read in one way or another in our day to day lives. Last year we offered a prize only for completion. In some years past we have also offered rewards for registration and reaching the midway point, and we plan to bring back the midway prize again this year. The prize will be offered to all registered participants the third week in July. This could also be an effective way to encourage new readers to register. There will also be weekly prize drawings for each age group. Every employee will receive rewards through the City's Health and Wellness initiative and be entered into a special drawing. There will be some events to kick off the program including Teeny Tiny Farm petting zoo. Jonathan Austin, local magician, juggler and unicycle rider will come for the program finale. All drawings are handled randomly through the Beanstack app. Participants will need to come into the library to collect their prize. D. Dangerfield made a suggestion to share photos on social media of participants winning prizes in order to help gain more interest and excitement about the challenge. We will recognize our prize winners through social media. We also recognize who is at the top of the leaderboard for the week. Registration can be done through the app, website or you can come in.

Librarian's Report – March and April Monthly Roundup

A. Jennings reviewed the monthly roundup newsletters and statistics provided to the board. There were also some additional updates to provide. The computer lab tables were replaced at Pearl Bailey. The public network was upgraded and migrated to our own server. This increased speeds up to 30 percent. PCs were unavailable for four to five days during the migration. We also upgraded our public Wi-Fi speeds.

The Director met with architects regarding the plans for the new Libraries. For the new Grissom Library, the police department and Human Services will be in the same municipal area with the Library. Drawings are not yet available. They have not determined space allocation for what the Friends of the Library will have available for workspace and storefront. The design team held some community meetings to communicate what the plan is for the Pearl Bailey Library and surrounding areas.

We offered our first virtual class for the Main Street Library's Digital Media Lab and the video received over 5,000 views on YouTube. Passport traffic has also been excellent and

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

700 Town Center Drive, Suite 300 | Newport News, VA 23606 | 757- 926-1350 | F 757-926-1365



Newport News Public Library

appointment calendar is remaining booked.

R. Tench mentioned there was an article recently in the Daily Press about Norfolk eliminating fines. Data has shown that fines can have a negative impact on some patrons who are economically disadvantaged. They stop coming into the branches and don't return overdue materials because they are worried they are going to be charged for the items. The question asked was if Newport News Public Libraries will once again consider eliminating fines. A. Jennings stated that our new ILS has auto renewal which aids in helping patrons avoid fines and fewer fines are being assessed. Renewals are limited to three.

T. Wright sent an email to all board members to update them on the Give Local 757 fundraising campaign. We received \$1,015 from 15 donors. Our newsletters now contain information about Foundation and Friends.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,



Anita Jennings, Director
Secretary, ex-officio

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

700 Town Center Drive, Suite 300 | Newport News, VA 23606 | 757- 926-1350 | F 757-926-1365