

James L. Hamner Public Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
March 19, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 by Jennifer Jones..

Those in attendance were Jill Hames, Carol Hix, Hilda Foster, Jennifer Jones, John Holman, Tom Hayghe, Gail Geraghty and friends representative Louisa Finks.

Jill brought in a new technology item purchased by the Friends called Botley, which is a mini-robot used to teach coding. Several board members tried it out.

Minutes - Jennifer asked if all had seen the minutes from last meeting. Carol moved that the minutes be approved, and they were accepted.

Corresponding Secretary - Carol reported that no cards have been sent out since we last met, and asked that if anyone knew of a need to please contact her.

Treasurer's Report - Mike was not present.

Friends' Report - Louisa Fink, a new member of the Friends, shared that all units in their building are currently occupied. Sally Gordon is scheduled to do a book reading and signing on March 24th. The Friends' annual meeting will be held on April 28th at the library. Author Sandy Huddleston Edwards will be the guest speaker and will do a book signing. Refreshments will be served. Louisa said that the Friends will take care of the request for pizza for the summer reading program.

Director's Report - Jill asked for questions about the expense summary. She said that data in February's report was not auto-updating correctly; the program was not taking data that it was supposed to be taking, so the reports are unreliable. Also, the wifi count for the past few years may not be correct. Jill put lists on the side of the year to date.

Jill said that performer Victor Haskins was very visually entertaining and well-received. Louisa stated that she agreed - it was very different and she admired and enjoyed his performances very much. Twenty-one people attended.

Jill said that for the first time in a long time more children's items were checked out than adult items.

Jill spoke about having done a few podcast episodes recently about library things that seem unfriendly, like needing a library card. Episodes about salad recipes and an Interview with a Muslim have also been popular. She welcomes interested people who know the library's needs to join her, to "build a base of library advocates". There are now 18 listeners each month.

Jill said the library's internal goal of increasing part-time salary has been met.

To address the library's volunteer recruitment and recognition, the staff have sent out hand-written notes.

On May 19th a flute trio will be performing at 3:30 - either here or at the Presbyterian Church.

Executive Committee - Jill had asked that the executive committee meeting scheduled for June 10th be moved to June 3rd, and it was approved.

Planning Committee -

Nominating Committee - no report.

Policy Committee - The addendum proposal concerning part-time employees was briefly discussed, voted on and accepted unanimously. Jill said she will make the approved revisions within the policy.

Evaluation Committee - Tom said that the second meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 6:00 p.m. They will discuss forthcoming changes concerning discussion and feedback as well as meeting more frequently.

Budget Committee - Carol said that the budget was submitted to the county, and the budget workshop will be held on March 20th. She doesn't anticipate any problems with it being approved. As for library expenses, Carol said that Jill is right on target with spending.

Facilities Committee - Jennifer spoke about the visit taken to the Henrico libraries, as well as the visit to the Farmville library, and how we learn a lot about library design during these visits. She said that the libraries were larger and more modern than ours, although the Farmville library serviced both Prince Edward and Buckingham counties. It was discussed that our path forward is to have a conceptual design in the CIP by October. Jill would still like to visit another library that's more like ours. The committee plans to hold a meeting soon.

Public Relations Committee - no report.

Old Business - Jennifer has done two seminars, one on grant research and grant seeking. She has found that it's a great deal of work, and that we may have to hire someone to write a grant, but there is some support to be had. Jill said that it takes lots of time to write a grant, and then lots of time to implement it.

The other seminar concerned social media and how to automatically "push" posts and content. It provided some good apps.

Gail's name was drawn to do the next training.

The summer reading program is in June, and some related events will be held in July. Nothing is yet planned for adults, but Jill is looking for some evening programs for adults and teens, for elementary and middle school aged children. Uncle Ty-Rone will be doing a puppet show and puppet making, for the older kids. This will be Dave Risley's last year.

Jill asked for interested (and interesting) people to appear with her on the podcast.

Jennifer said that our next meeting will be held on May 21st. The next executive committee meeting will be on Monday, April 8th.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57.