

**James L. Hamner Public Library  
Board of Trustees Meeting  
November 13, 2018**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 by Phil Seyfried.

Those in attendance were: Jill Hames, Phil Seyfried, Carol Hix, Hilda Foster, Karen Freas, Linda Gallagher, Beatrice Head, John Holman, Tom Hayghe, Jennifer Jones, Gail Geraghty, and Supervisor Ralph Whitaker.

**Minutes** to the previous meeting were approved. The motion was made by Carol and seconded by Linda.

**Corresponding Secretary** - Carol reported that she sent out cards to Hilda and Becky Russell.

**Financial Report** - Treasurer Mike Davis was absent, but provided a current balance of \$879.69.

**Friends of the Library Report** - Linda Gallagher reported on behalf of the Friends that they are holding a Holiday Shop which will be open on Saturdays from 10 - 1, and that they need volunteers. Also, their building has two units which are currently vacant. The friends sponsored the performance of Sparky and Rhonda last month, which was moved to Farmville due to inclement weather. Sally Gordon is planning a reading/signing of her new children's book. The friends are currently offering a box of books free to each new member. The next meeting will be held on January 8, 2019.

**Library Director's Report -**

Jill reviewed the following:

- Her monthly report for October indicates an increase and/or steady use of most library resources.
- The library went to court for a trespassing issue on Nov. 13th. The patron is ordered to stay off library property for 12 months.
- Songwriting workshop - tomorrow is the final night. It has been well-attended, with about 20 people at each session. A Nottoway radio station has been especially supportive.
- Jazz at the Lincoln Center continues. Jill emphasized that it's always very well-done.

- Authors Karin Anderson and Kathy Erskine came and presented a very good program on Oct. 20. It was attended mostly by teens and young adults. Jill recorded the program and is trying to get a podcast out of it.
- We haven't gotten the expense report from Carla yet. Jill spoke about the hard work that Carla and Jerry from county administration are doing to keep us going. She said they are to be commended.
- 5 Year Plan - our goal is to create a place where people feel valued, an environment of mutual respect.
- There's a possibility of getting a resource for small businesses, including templates for interviews, etc. on the library's website for free.
- Jill's Podcast has passed her goal of an average of 12 listeners per month. We now have 20 viewers on average.
- Programming - Jill reports that its been very difficult finding speakers and performers for our programs who are both diverse and affordable. She's been looking for programming in June that addresses all of our local populations, but hasn't found much out there. Phil asked for ideas about where to look. Karen said she has connections with theater people, and John knows several musicians who may be willing. Both said they will get back to Jill.
- Calendar - Next years proposed calendar of library holidays was presented and discussed. Carol asked about attendance on Columbus Day and Veteran's Day. Jill said attendance is about average on those days. Beatrice moved to accept the minutes and Hilda seconded. It was unanimously approved.
- Jill has requested a statement from the board about the library's position on silence at the library. She's asked the board to make a formal decision about whether we should be a quiet place or a more social library. She provided statistics in print for members about how our library has been used recently, and after reviewing the data, she recommended a more social space. She said that functionally, nothing would change. Jill would like for the staff to have a response to complaining patrons. Linda asked how many distractions or noisy episodes there are. Jill said there are many daily, as people rely on the library as a place for social interaction. Tom asked if we might track complaints and Jill responded that there are few written complaints. Tom then moved that we accept the position of having a more social library, adopting Jill's proposed statement. Beatrice seconded. It was unanimously approved.

**Planning Committee** - Mary Nell was absent; no news to report at this time.

**Nominating Committee** - Jennifer reported that this committee is not yet active.

**Policy Committee** - Gail Geraghty reported no news.

**Budget Committee** - Carol explained that this committee will begin meeting in December.

**Facility Committee** - Jennifer spoke about the trip taken to the Central Rappahannock Regional Libraries on Wednesday, November 7 by Phil, Jill, and Mike. They toured both the Howell and the Salem Church Branches, which were spacious, with special rooms for children and adult programs. Jill said that, as this library system was pretty well-funded, there was plenty of floor space, stack space, and space to work. Phil said there were 55 computers in one place, spread out in banks throughout the library for children and adults. Both libraries had a section for selling books, and two meeting rooms - 1.5 and 3 times as big as our meeting room, and with dividers. Jill said that there were private study spaces with primarily glass walls, and a glass-walled multipurpose activity room. Phil also said that there, all faxes and copies were free.

Phil then said that we need to next visit libraries about our size. Tom said that Powhatan's library has a separate children's section, glass walls, and their computers are more distributed than ours.

**Public Relations Committee** - No news

**Evaluation Committee** - Carol said that she obtained and forwarded the previous forms from Heather Vaughan to Tom. Tom said that he received the forms and that they looked good.

**Executive Committee** - Phil discussed the subject of our position of a quiet vs. social library from our recent meeting.

Linda moved that we adjourn at 8:10. Jennifer seconded.