

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2022 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

<u>President</u> Thomas Unsworth (Albemarle) (virtual)	Michael Powers (Albemarle) (in person)
Meredith Cole (Charlottesville) (in person)	Lisa Woolfork (Charlottesville) (virtual)
<u>Vice President</u> Wendy Wheaton Craig (Louisa) (virtual)	Tony Townsend (Albemarle) (virtual)
Aleta Childs (Nelson) (in person)	

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Kathy Johnson Harris (Charlottesville)	James West (Greene)
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OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director (in person)	Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director (virtual)
Ginny Reese, Staff Reporter & Greene Manager (virtual)	Sierra Hammons, Collections Specialist (virtual)
Kayla Payne, Collections & Technology Manager (virtual)	Tim Carrier, Young Adult Services Manager (virtual)

CALL TO ORDER & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson Madison Regional Library's (JMRL) Board of Trustees was convened **AS A HYBRID MEETING WITH SOME TRUSTEES PRESENT VIRTUALLY AND SOME PHYSICALLY CONGREGATED** on Monday, January 24, 2022 at 3:00 PM using videoconferencing software, at the Northside Library (705 West Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA 22901). (A recording of the meeting is available at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBl5b_Pqc6Y.) Trustee Woolfork moved to accept the minutes as corrected for the December 13, 2021 Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

President Unsworth announced that he would be moving on from his position as the Town Clerk of Scottsville, and will be joining the Albemarle County Finance Staff at the end of January 2022. No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Tim Carrier, JMRL's Young Adult Services Manager, introduced JMRL's new reading challenge service Beanstack to the Board. Beanstack is a free web service (jmrl.beanstack.org) and mobile app tool, where patrons can log reading time and participate in reading challenges. Beanstack was made available to JMRL through funding from the Library of Virginia. JMRL's Winter Reading challenge soft-launched on January 3, 2022. Readers can earn badges upon completion of reading activities on Beanstack and can also be entered into prize drawings. JMRL staff may also participate in reading challenges. Tim Carrier stated the hope is to incorporate JMRL's 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program and Summer Reading Challenge into Beanstack this year. Tim Carrier announced there are currently 150 active readers using Beanstack.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

NA

NEW BUSINESS

1. *First Reading of Policy 4.32 (Interlibrary Loan)*

Director Plunkett stated the Policy Committee met and reviewed Policy 4.32 (Interlibrary Loan) last month. Policy 4.32 will be presented to the Board next month for a potential vote.

2. *Potential Vote on Acceptance of #PlantWildflowers Grants for Scottsville, Central, and Nelson Libraries*

Director Plunkett reported he reached out to the City of Charlottesville regarding grant approval procedure, and stated the City continues to require that the Board approve all incoming grants to JMRL. The #PlantWildflowers Grant is up to \$1000, which includes materials, to help support local pollinator gardens. Scottsville, Central, and Nelson Libraries have all applied for the grant individually. Director Plunkett stated that JMRL staff are asking for a blanket motion to accept the grants for any JMRL branch so that the grant(s) would be accepted if received. Trustee Townsend motioned to accept the #PlantWildflowers Grant for any branch of JMRL should any be fortunate enough to receive awards. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Realigning Director's Contract Term with Director's Evaluation Cycle

President Unsworth proposed extending Director Plunkett's contract temporarily, until June 2022, moving the expiration date closer to the Director's evaluation period. Director Plunkett's salary would remain the same during this time. Trustee Powers moved to extend the current Director's contract until June 30, 2022. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY23 Budget Update

Director Plunkett informed the Board that he and Trustees met with each jurisdiction to discuss JMRL's Proposed Budget for FY23 using the Board's priorities: 1. \$15 minimum wage adjustment, 2. 2% cost of living increase for staff, and 3. additional operational changes passed by the Personnel Committee last Fall. Jurisdictions appeared receptive to JMRL's proposed budget and understood the importance of the Library's compensation work in light of the current job market. Director Plunkett reported that jurisdictions will begin sending proposed Budgets to elected officials in the next few months.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett announced that JMRL moved into Tier 2 of the COVID response plan, requiring masks at all locations and placing in-person programming on hold. JMRL will move back into Tier 1 when three of the five jurisdictions are back under 10% positivity for two weeks. JMRL's biggest COVID concern is keeping staff healthy and safe, in order to prevent library closure due to staffing shortage. The City of Charlottesville has made COVID testing available for staff. The VDH is currently seeking a new source for antigen tests to distribute to program participants. Director Plunkett reported that JMRL will soon resume the Library's free ILL program with UVA. JMRL is also reviving the joint scholarship program with the NAACP of Charlottesville and Albemarle (\$2000 scholarship and 200 hour work stipend), with the goal to increase diversity in professional librarianship by encouraging students to get work experience at public libraries. JMRL received positive publicity for the new Community Journals, created by Central Reference Librarian Abby Davis, which are composition journals for patrons to share thoughts and ideas. The VLA has adopted their legislative program for the current session, with three priorities: 1. Affirming the "Freedom to Read" statement, 2. Increasing state aid by \$2.5million statewide in both 2023 and 2024, 3. Continuing support for the Library of Virginia. JMRL received the draft FY21 audit last Friday, with the hope to send out a final copy in the next few weeks. JMRL and the Festival of the Book announced Tracy Chee's book "We Are Not Free" as this year's Same Page community read.

OTHER MATTERS

Trustee Craig announced that the Friends of the Library will be hosting a Virtual "Literary Love" Trivia event on Zoom, February 10, at 7pm. This year's Friends of the Library Spring book sale will be held at Albemarle Square Shopping Center April 2-10. Trustee Powers recommended a series of trainings sponsored by the Library of Virginia regarding the use of social media by employers, employees, and trustees.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include a continuing education with financial auditors, a potential vote on Policy 4.32 (Interlibrary Loans), an update from Director Plunkett on Director Goals, and a report from the Policy Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:08pm.
