

PRESENT: Doran Stegura
Betsy Curry
Melody Puffenbarger
Carol Turrentine
Lynn Mitchell
Dr. Breyette Covington
Steve Morelli, Board of Supervisors
Diantha McCauley, Director
Debbie Sweeney, Assistant Director

ABSENT: James Stewart
K. Wayne Glass, Foundation Liaison

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Augusta County Library Board held at the Augusta County Library Fishersville, Virginia on January 28, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and in the 244th year of the Commonwealth. . . .

Call to Order

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board meeting was held by electronic communication means using Zoom and phone calls as well as a limited number of in-person attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 4:24 p.m. by chair, Doran Stegura.

Delegations

None

Minutes

The minutes of the November 19, 2020 meeting were approved as submitted.

Friends of the Library

No Friends report due to no meetings held.

Committee Reports

Doran Stegura reported for the new library director search committee. Of the 19 applicants, 16 had the necessary credentials. Six finalists were selected with the top three in tier one and the remainder in tier two. The tier one applicants were interviewed by Ms. Stegura, Carol Turrentine, Ruth Arnold, and Jennifer Whetzel. Second level

interviews are scheduled for January 29, 2021, with Tim Fitzgerald, Faith Duncan, and Ms. Stegora.

State of the Library

The Government Center bookdrop had minor damage recently, but the maintenance department was able to repair it. Weyers Cave Library Station was without heat on January 19, 2021 until it was repaired that afternoon.

We are heavily weeding and shifting the nonfiction collection in Fishersville to make room for moving the Special Collection to the end of the 900's. The plan is to create more study space on the mezzanine.

Library staff received training on the Freedom of Information Act including information on records and email retention.

Utilizing the new Strategic Plan, the Executive Committee set goals for the remainder of the fiscal year which included focusing on collections, programming, communications, facilities, and staffing. As a result, we began using Slack and are in the process of moving to GSuite/Google Workspace to improve internal communications.

The library received the long-term donation of two groups of microfilmed Augusta County newspapers from the Augusta County Clerk's office. They do not have a microform reader/printer and were aware that ours was used by the Augusta County Genealogical Society and library patrons. The Frontier Culture Museum donated two annual passes which patrons can borrow. They should be as popular as the Virginia State Park passes/backpacks with our patrons.

Staff created several reader's advisory bookmarks to overcome patrons' inability to browse the collections. One promotes our reading recommendation service while others suggest titles based on favorite books, movies/TV shows, or genres. STEM kits were made available for holds as well.

County COVID funds were used to purchase more book trucks. They will be used to store returned materials waiting in quarantine. The remaining three electrostatic sprayers arrived and were sent to Craigsville, Middlebrook, and Weyers Cave.

After viewing a webinar from Augusta Health about local COVID conditions, the decision was made with the Staunton Public Library to revert to curb services only effective December 16, 2020. In addition to holds, other services include printing, copying and checking out laptops/Chromebooks for parking lot use. Reopening to the public will be coordinated with the Staunton and Waynesboro libraries. Several staff have quarantined due to contact with suspected cases but no staff have tested positive for the COVID virus. The County expects to provide COVID vaccines to staff sometime in February.

Zoom continues to be a valuable tool for book club, staff, and other meetings. The

library pays \$20 per month as its share of the County's subscription. Staff suggest keeping the subscription as it facilitates outreach to and communication with both the staff and public.

Our YouTube channel has enabled us to provide virtual programs with the top views being Fridays with Friends and how to get ebooks. We plan to continue this type of programming as it enables patrons anywhere to view our videos anytime.

Correspondence

Copies of all correspondence are in the packet.

The email from Melissa Colby, who lives in the Charlottesville area, was sent to many libraries in the country as well as the Augusta Free Press and The Daily Progress. Melissa Davidson from Staunton Public Library posted it to the Library Think Tank Facebook page where Ms. Colby continued her arguments despite numerous rebuttals from librarians.

Old Business

None

New Business

The budget for FY2022 was approved as submitted.

The Activities Guide will be reimagined when programs can be held again. Library and Parks & Recreation staff will meet in February with Jennifer Whetzel and Mia Kivligham, County Communications Manager, to begin planning its new look.

The annual report and Strategic Directions 2020-2023 presentation to the Board of Supervisors is scheduled for February 22, 2021.

Adjournment

With thanks expressed to Ms. McCauley and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on March 25, 2021, at the Augusta County Library at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary