



Richmond Public Library Board
 101 E. Franklin Street
 Richmond, VA 23219
 (804) 646-4256 / fax: (804) 646-7685



**Library Board Meeting Minutes
 April 28, 2021**

PRESENT: Chair William Yates, Vice Chair Christine Peterson, Emily Altman, Barbara Burton, Brent Graves
 Sheron Carter-Gunter, Garrett Sawyer, Janet Woody, Gail Zwirner

ABSENT: N/A

STAFF: Scott Firestine, Clay Dishon, Attorney Laura Drewry, Gianna Pack, Susan Revere, Jonah Butler, Friends
 of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer

Meeting of the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) was called to order by Chair William Yates at 11:46 a.m. This meeting was held as an electronic meeting pursuant to and in compliance with the City of Richmond Ordinance #2020-093. The public participated by using Richmond Public Library YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/2VfKL9U>, where it was Live Streamed. A quorum was established.

<p>Agenda</p>	<p>Approve the April 28, 2021 Agenda as submitted by roll call vote: <i>Motion: Barbara Burton, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter</i></p> <p>Chair William Yates – AYE Brent Graves – _____ Vice Chair Christine Peterson – AYE Garrett Sawyer – _____ Emily Altman – AYE Janet Woody – AYE Barbara Burton – AYE Gail Zwirner – AYE Sheron Carter-Gunter – AYE</p> <p><i>Note: Mr. Graves and Mr. Sawyer were not present during the vote.</i></p> <p>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</p>
<p>Consent Agenda</p>	<p>Approve the March 24, 2021 Meeting Minutes, Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as submitted by roll call vote: <i>Motion: Gail Zwirner, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter</i></p> <p>Chair William Yates – AYE Brent Graves – _____ Vice Chair Christine Peterson – AYE Garrett Sawyer – _____ Emily Altman – AYE Janet Woody – AYE Barbara Burton – AYE Gail Zwirner – AYE Sheron Carter-Gunter – AYE</p> <p><i>Note: Mr. Graves and Mr. Sawyer were not present during the vote.</i></p> <p>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</p>
<p>Public Comment Period</p>	<p>None Present</p>

REPORTS

<p>Friends of the Library (FOL)</p> <p><u>Ruth DeBoer</u></p>	<p>Ms. DeBoer reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The full FOL Board will meet on May 5. • Receiving donations for book sales by appointments only. Call the FOL phone number at 804.646.3411 or email friends@rvalibraryfriends.org to leave a message for an appointment time. Donations need to be delivered in a box or bag. • The summer book sale in the park has not been organized due to lack of volunteers. Since it is a big event, Ms. DeBoer is recommending to hold a book sale in the fall with the hopes of the building being open to the public.
<p>Library Foundation</p> <p><u>Susan Revere</u></p>	<p>Ms. Revere reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YAVA: On April 17 Young Adult Coordinator Jenn Deuell hosted a virtual edition of our YAVA Young Adult Virginia Author event. This program highlights excellence in writing for readers at the middle and high school level by Virginia authors. This year's winner is award-winning poet Brynne Rebele-Henry debut's novel <i>Orpheus Girl</i>, which re-imagines the Orpheus myth from a modern, diverse perspective. The Foundation supported the event with a \$1,000 check to the winner, sent with her award. • Grant Activity: The ALA COVID Library Relief Fund will provide \$1.25M for to a number of public, school, academic, and tribal libraries across the U.S. and U.S. Territories that have experienced substantial economic hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic. Grants between \$30,000 and \$50,000 to libraries/library systems/districts will be awarded to those that have seen a substantial reduction in funding that impacts their ability to provide essential services to underserved populations in low to moderate income groups to help re-establish, sustain, amplify, or create new services for those targeted audiences. The grant funds are to support libraries through December 31, 2021. The deadline for applicant submissions is May 20, 2021. Grants will be announced on June 23, 2021. Given the 9% funding reduction experienced by the Library, the Foundation will apply on behalf of the Library with a \$50,000 request for funding for books and materials. • Upcoming Board Retreat: The three Board retreat agenda is under development, any ideas shared during the meeting should be forwarded to Ms. Revere to discuss with Mr. Pearsall as plans are finalized. Chair Yates asked Board members to look at their calendars to see what days they are not available in September.
<p>Administration</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Highlights and Additions to Director's Report: Mr. Firestine reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reopened all locations on April 5, 2021 with having limited time in the building to browse and use the computers. • Virtual programs continue. • Governor Northam and First Lady Pam Northam visited the Main Library on April 26 to sign legislation formalizing a LGBTQ State Advisory Committee to the Office of the Governor. They chose Main RPL as the site to sign the bill because in the 1980-90's, the Main Library was used by organizers in the LGBTQ community to meet and advocate without being harassed. The Governor wore his Ripple mask for the event. • Completed a Professional Development series with staff featuring Elvatrice P. Belsches, MA, Public Historian and Author of <i>Black America Series: Richmond, Virginia</i>. Topics included Dr. Sarah G. Jones, MD, Maggie Lena Walker, Virginia Randolph, Jenny Porter Barrett, and Rosa Bowser. Staff enjoyed the 3-week sessions via Zoom training. • Mr. Firestine offered Board Members a copy of the Elijah Cummings book, <i>We're Better Than This-My fight for the future of our democracy</i> by contacting Ms. Pack.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Chair <u>William Yates</u>	Chair Yates thanked and complimented Mr. Firstine and staff for increasing inside services and extending time allowed in the buildings from a half hour to an hour as the libraries move closer to reopen fully. He also suggested having an in-person meeting when starting on the Strategic Plan and not do it virtually.
Finance Chair <u>Garrett Sawyer</u>	<p>Mr. Sawyer reported meeting via Zoom with Council President Newbille on April 8 to discuss RPL's overall needs. Ms. Newbille requested additional information to review be sent to her office. There are plans for a second meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Sawyer serves on another separate community organization called Richmond Together, which will meet on April 29. Mr. Sawyer reported there is a plan to send out a notification to the Mayor and City Council about the America CARES Act and being able to utilize funding that is coming to the localities.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine added City Council is still in the Budget process and reviewing the submitted Amendments. He also mentioned the discussion on the American CARES Act. The City of Richmond is to receive \$158M, the schools were to receive \$122M, which is in addition to the \$166M, and the state is to receive a large amount of money, which will make them go into a Special Session in June to allocate the money. At this time, we do not know how much money is to be received by the state. Mr. Firestine also mentioned Councilmember Jones wanted to cut an additional \$200K across all City Departments.</p>
Facilities Chair <u>Janet Woody</u>	<p>Ms. Woody reported the April 7 kickoff workshop event with the architect did not happen. Staff has been gathering more information on collection size and shelving requirements for the architect, which will drive the design ideas.</p> <p>The architect is also wanting to do a survey to the general public on what they want to see happen in the Main Library building. This may cause work for the LBOT members to get the word out to get the public involved. The architect will draft a survey for review. They are also 3 weeks behind.</p>
Governance Chair <u>Emily Altman</u>	No report.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members discussed upcoming fall retreat. 	
NEW BUSINESS	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review calendars for available dates for the retreat and send information to the Chair. • Review the Strategic Plan at the May 26, 2021, meeting. 	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m. by unanimous consensus from the members that were present in the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 26, 2021, at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street and by Zoom.

Approved: 
Mr. William Yates, Chair

Recorder: Gianna Pack, CAP
Senior Executive Assistant