



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



Library Board Meeting Minutes
April 27, 2022

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

ABSENT: Emily Altman, Brent Graves, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer, Foundation Susan Revere

STAFF: Scott Firestine, Clay Dishon, Attorney Laura Drewry, Cheryl Clarke, Gianna Pack, Phil Shephard

Meeting of the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) was called to order by Chair William Yates at 11:45am at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia. The public was noticed and could attend in person or by viewing the Richmond Public Library YouTube channel <https://bit.ly/2VfKL9U>, where it was live streamed. A quorum was established.

Agenda	Approve the April 27, 2022, Agenda as submitted: <i>Motion: Barbara Burton, Second by Gail Zwirner</i> <i>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i> Mr. Sawyer was not present during the vote.
Consent Agenda	Approve the March 23, 2022 Regular Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as submitted: <i>Motion: Christine Peterson, Second by Sheron Carter-Gunter</i> <i>AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.</i> Mr. Sawyer was not present during the vote.
Announcement	Chair Yates announced Sam and Emily Altman welcomed their new baby daughter Annabelle May on Saturday, April 9 at 11:50PM. Big brother Ben is adjusting well and loves his new sister. Annabelle May weighed 8 lbs., 1 oz. at 19 3/4" long. Emily had an easy delivery and family is doing well.
Public Comment Period	None Present

REPORTS

<p>Friends of the Library (FOL)</p> <p><u>Ruth DeBoer</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported on the Friends of the Library Report in Ms. DeBoer's absence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Friends have just started their financial year and will be filling out their schedule for the next year at the May 4 Board meeting. • The Friends will provide RPL with \$11,432.35 for programs. RPL will provide a final report on the programs funded. • June 4: Summer Bag Sale - \$10/bag, \$2/bag for teachers with current school IDs. • Annual Meeting planning in process. Date TBD. Looking forward to a larger meeting with a speaker.
<p>Library Foundation</p> <p><u>Susan Revere</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported on the Library Foundation Report in Ms. Revere's absence:</p> <p><u>Foundation Update:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation welcomes Ms. Joanne Frye to the Richmond Public Library Foundation (RPLF) Board. Ms. Frye is a Senior Attorney with the Virginia Division of Legislative Services in Richmond. Her first official RPLF meeting will be the 3-Board Retreat on May 7, so please introduce yourself and make her feel welcome. • The Retreat is scheduled for May 7. If you have not already done so, please let the Foundation know whether or not you plan to attend. <p><u>Grant Activity/Partnerships:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Richmond Public Law Library was awarded a grant from the Virginia Center for the Book in support of the program "What makes a Fact True: Local Journalism and American Democracy" featuring Pulitzer Prize winner Michael Paul Williams and Pulitzer Prize nominee Chip Jones, and VCU Journalism teacher Dr. Mallory Perryman. <p>RPL thanks The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Virginia Center for the Book for their generous support of this initiative and the Pulitzer Prizes for their partnership. This program is part of the "Democracy and the Informed Citizen" initiative, administered across the nation by the Federation of State Humanities Councils. The initiative seeks to deepen the public's knowledge and appreciation of the vital connections between democracy, the humanities, journalism, and an informed citizenry.</p> <p>The program will take place May 17 at 6:30pm at the Main Library and will be live-streamed on the RPL YouTube channel. For more information or to register for this free event, please visit the Library website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation was excited to team up with Youth Services Librarian Beth Morris to submit a grant to the Fan District Association (FDA) in a request to support a series of Summer Reading Programs at Belmont Branch Library. <p>Vice Chair Peterson runs the FDA Grants Programs. She alerted Ms. Revere of the opportunity to apply to the grants program with the FDA association. Ms. Peterson encouraged members if they live in an association to see if they also have opportunities for program grants and if so, to let Ms. Revere know. These program grants are just the right size for children or speaker programs.</p>

REPORTS (CONTINUED)	
Administration <u>Scott Firestine</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attended the Virginia Library Directors Meeting in Stanton and received an update on other libraries around the state. Censorship continues to be an issue in the media centers and school libraries around the state. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chair Yates also expressed his gratitude to Vice Chair Peterson, Mr. Firestine, and staff for getting a head start on reviewing censorship in the Materials Reconsideration Request Policy, which is under the 12.1 Collection Development Policy. • State Budget: No word yet on when it will be completed. First time in a long time the state does not have a budget at the end of the General Assembly term.
BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Chair <u>William Yates</u>	<p>No formal report.</p> <p>Chair Yates commented on the positive direction the library is moving towards as it starts to move out of the COVID restrictions with better attendance and back to in-person programming. Door count and circulation looks positive. The LBOT can start focus back on advocacy and other board items.</p> <p>Chair Yates and members congratulated Mr. Garrett Sawyer for being listed in the <i>Top 40 under 40: Class of '22</i> article in the Style Weekly.</p>
Finance Chair <u>Garrett Sawyer</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported City Council Budget to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Councilmember Jones introduced \$500K at the April 25 meeting. Councilmembers were advocating for the additional \$500K. Council asked for additional information and tabled until April 26. Mr. Firestine attended the Council Meeting answering additional information. He was asked to determine how much additional money it would take to have Broad Rock reopen on Sundays. It was determined to add an additional \$100K to pilot Board Rock to reopen on Sundays. Mr. Firestine thanked the LBOT for their hard work and efforts advocating on behalf of the library. He also mentioned Administration was also supportive. • Councilmembers questioned Mr. Firestine on staffing capacity. Mr. Firestine stated the budget allows for a 5% increase to existing, long term employees and starting hourly rate at \$17 will make working for the City more competitive with the other localities.
Facilities Chair <u>Janet Woody</u> <u>Gail Zwirner</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	<p>No formal report.</p> <p>The Draft Architectural Master Plan for Richmond Public Library was submitted to the Urban Design Council (UDC). The Draft Plan will be reviewed on May 5 at 10:00am at City Hall in the 5th Floor Conference Room. The architects will be there to present the plans and answer any questions. Mr. Firestine outlined the next steps when the UDC approves the Draft.</p> <p>Mr. Firestine gave a brief overview of the Draft UDC submission by going over the architects' draft drawings. There was positive feedback. All renovation questions and answers are listed on the website: https://rvalibrary.org/about/library-board/main-library-renovations/answers/.</p>

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (CONTINUED)	
Governance Chair <u>Emily Altman</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Formal report.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
<p>Advocacy: Ongoing process. Vice Chair Peterson congratulated everyone on a job well done working with their respective Councilmembers and advocating on behalf of the Library. This year was shorter than expected to start advocating. Next year Trustees will start advocating and continue to build their relationships early. Chair Yates also commented on starting in July or September to come out with a message to start advocating early.</p> <p>Ms. Peterson mentioned there were three items she felt made them very successful this year in requesting funds for the budget. Besides having a good team, the LBOT had a clear message, members did homework to make connections, and created strong relationships with City Councilmembers and City Administration. She also mentioned the next steps are for the Library to continue building momentum and deliver.</p>	
NEW BUSINESS	
No New Business Discussed.	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:42pm by unanimous consensus from the members that were present in the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 25, 2022, for a Regular Monthly Meeting at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219.

Approved:  _____
Ms. Christine Peterson, Vice Chair

Recorder: *Gianna Pack, CAP*
Senior Executive Assistant