



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
September 28, 2022

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

ABSENT: Brent Graves, Garrett Sawyer, Friends of the Library Chair Ruth DeBoer, Susan Revere

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

Meeting of the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Library Board of Trustees (LBOT) was called to order by Chair William Yates at 11:46am at the North Avenue Branch Library located at 2901 North Avenue, 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 September 28, 2022, Agenda. <i>Motion: Sheron Carter-Gunter, Second by Barbara Burton</i> AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.
Consent Agenda	Approve the July 27, 2022, Regular Meeting Minutes, the Current Financial Reports, Statistical Reports, and Donations Report as submitted: <i>Motion: Emily Altman, Second by Christine Peterson</i> AYES: <u>7</u> NOES: <u>0</u> ABSTAIN: <u>0</u> Approved Unanimously.
Public Comment Period	None Present
REPORTS	
Friends of the Library (FOL) <u>Clay Dishon</u> <u>Ruth DeBoer</u>	Mr. Dishon reported on the Friends of the Library Report in Ms. DeBoer’s absence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the FRPL August 3 Meeting, they met with Edie Patterson, a non-profit consultant who has started the Friends on some assignments for refreshing the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ They are glad to say that the Friends have welcomed some new volunteers over the summer and have welcomed David Cupps as a new Board member. • The Friends had a very successful book drive on September 17 and volunteers are busy working on organizing for the Fall Book Sale for Friday, November 4-5, which will coincide with the FOL Annual Meeting being held on Friday, November 4.

REPORTS (CONTINUED)

<p>Library Foundation</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u> <u>Susan Revere</u></p>	<p>Mr. Firestine reported on the Library Foundation Report in Ms. Revere’s absence:</p> <p><u>New Board Member Announcement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation welcomes new Board Member Mr. Ryan Childress of Dominion Energy. The Board is looking forward to teaming up with Ryan for the benefit of RPL. • Mr. James Beazley resigned from the Board. The Board is deeply appreciative of his efforts over the years.
<p>Library Foundation (Continued)</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u> <u>Susan Revere</u></p>	<p><u>Grant Activity/Partnership Updates:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Foundation is approved as a Commonwealth of Virginia Campaign Charity. • The Foundation received a \$10,000 gift from Jane Vaught in memory of her sister Patricia Jean Vaught to the Belmont Branch Library. • The Foundation is pleased to announce receiving a \$60,000 grant from the Robins Foundation to expand the RVA Reads Program. This grant supports a new part-time position to work with Barbara Crump as RVA Reads expands to include non-traditional childcare environments across Richmond.
<p>Administration</p> <p><u>Scott Firestine</u></p>	<p><u>Director’s Report:</u> In addition to the items submitted on the Director’s Report in the Board Packet, Mr. Firestine reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Firestine announced Library/Community Services Branch Manager Ms. Dianne Wilmore at North Avenue is now in the Human Services Portfolio full-time as the Homeless Liaison. Mr. Craig Gill-Walker will serve as the Acting Library/Community Services Branch Manager. • Mr. Dishon gave a brief overview of the ReadUp Program that will be held on November 15 with a reception prior to the program to launch a year-long centennial anniversary of the founding of Richmond Public Library. • Summer Reading Program finished August 6, 2022. There were 3,842 participants registered and 2,191 participants completed the program to be entered into a grand prize incentive drawing. RPL doubled participation over 2021. • There will be a discussion program of The VCU Common Book for 2022: <i>The Organ Thieves</i> by Chip Jones at the Main Library on September 29 at 7:00 p.m. • The month of September is National Library Month. Library mascot Ripple will visit all branches and the Main Library to celebrate. • National Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 through October 15. • Staff Development Training Day is scheduled for October 10.

BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

<p>Chair Report</p> <p><u>William Yates</u></p>	<p>Chair Yates reported on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocacy being the big focus of the Board, an Advocacy Committee with Mr. Sawyer as the Chair and Ms. Carter-Gunter as Vice Chair. Board members should schedule meetings with their respective Councilmembers to provide RPL updates. • Thank you to Board members who attended the Hull Street Branch Library Open House to meet new Library/Community Services Manager Meldon Jenkins-Jones. • Mr. Yates was able to attend the Foundation Board where they had their quarterly meeting at the Broad Rock Branch Library.
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BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS (COTINUED)	
Finance Chair <u>Scott Firestine</u> <u>Garrett Sawyer</u>	No formal report. Budget is on track.
Facilities Chair <u>Janet Woody</u> <u>Gail Zwirner</u> <u>Scott Firestine</u>	Ms. Woody reported the UDC and Planning Commission approved the Master Plan conceptual design. The architects will proceed to complete the final report. Mr. Firestine, Ms. Woody, and Ms. Zwirner reviewed the draft of the conceptual document and made suggestions. The Committee is critical of the report and suggested revision to Stineberg Hart/KEI architects. Final drafts are expected in October 2022.
Governance Chair <u>Emily Altman</u>	Ms. Altman reported there were no updates to current committees. She informed the Board that the Executive committee is composed of the Chair, Vice Chair, and another member. Ms. Carter-Gunter is the new Vice Chair. Ms. Altman will serve on the Executive Committee for FY23.
Early Literacy Presentation <u>Christine Peterson</u>	Ms. Peterson gave a presentation on Early Learning (Birth to 5) and the Richmond Public Library (RPL) Taking AIM to do Better. <u>A</u> mplifying our effect with partners, <u>I</u> nitiating new efforts, and doing <u>M</u> ore with our existing activities (AIM). After the presentation and an in-depth discussion, it was the consensus of the Board members present at the meeting to use Early Literacy as a theme for advocacy and a priority for Mr. Firestine and the Library.
UNFINISHED BUSINESS	
No Unfinished Business Discussed.	
NEW BUSINESS	
No New Business Discussed.	

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:17pm by unanimous consensus from the members that were present in the meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, for a Regular Monthly Meeting at the Main Library located at 101 E. Franklin Street, Richmond, Virginia 23222.

Approved: W E Yates
Mr. William Yates, Chair

Recorder: *Gianna Pack, CAP*
Senior Executive Assistant