

Minutes of the
Rappahannock County Library Board of Trustees'
Meeting on October 26, 2023

1. *Call to Order*

Victoria Fortuna called the meeting to order at 4:38 p.m.

2. *Confirmation of Quorum*

Library Board Members Present: Victoria Fortuna, Maureen Harris, Randi Shumate, Debbie Knick, Bonnie Jewell, John Beardsley, Patti Peterson, Kit Johnston, Judy DeSarno (via zoom for medical reasons)

Staff present: Amanda Weakley

Members of the Public present: Ruth Welch, Friends of the Library (FOL)

3. *Approval of the Agenda*

John moved to approve the agenda. Patti seconded and the motion was approved.

4. *Disposition of the Minutes*

Patti moved to approve minutes from the September 28, 2023 meeting. Randi seconded and the motion was approved.

5. *Public Comment*

Ruth reported that FOL has postponed the planned artist forum to next October. Their next meeting is scheduled for November 2 at 1pm.

6. *Report of the President*

Victoria reported that FOL has agreed to help with fundraising, and said she has been working on an amendment to the by-laws that would enable the county treasurer to serve as treasurer of the library board, even if not a member of the board. She said we would discuss both these items in new business.

7. *Report of the Librarian*

Amanda reported that she has been working on Bibliostats and budget expenditure sheets as required for State Aid. She expressed her gratitude for attending the LVA Library Directors' Meetings on September 28-29 and the VLA Annual Conference on October 20-22, where she said physical and on-line security were subjects of frequent discussion. She reviewed current and upcoming programs for children, seniors, and local authors, and mentioned an initiative for November called "Feed Your Fines," during which patrons with overdue fines can bring in one non-perishable food item for donation to the Rappahannock County Food Pantry to cover each overdue fine.

Amanda reported that among the year's statistical highlights are the fact that we are on track to surpass last year's number of patrons in the library, as we have had over 1,000 patrons in the library each month (the best months: over 1400 each in March and June). The number of programs and program attendance is also high and likely to be higher than last year.

8. *Report of the Treasurer*

Debbie provided copies of her report dated October 26, 2023, and reported that expenditures are in line with the budget for the year.

9. *Committee Reports*

Personnel: No report

Expansion: John reported that he and Amanda met with Eve Brooks, Board Member, and Jim LaGraffe, Director, Encompass Community Supports (formally known as Rappahannock-Rapidan Community Services Board) to explore the possibility of co-locating a new senior center with the expanded library. Encompass needs dedicated space for their senior programs, including a lunch service, as well as office and meeting space. Jim suggested we check with Gil Entzminger, the architect for the expansion, to see if there is room for significant additional building on our site to accommodate the needs of Encompass. Amanda spoke with Gil, who said there would not be enough room, so the possibility cannot be pursued.

Buildings and Grounds: No report

Finance: No additional report

Policy: No report

10. *Old Business*

None

11. *New Business*

Draft MOU with FOL: After some general discussion to clarify a couple points, John moved to approve the draft for transmission to FOL; Randi seconded and the motion was approved.

Draft amendment to the Board By-Laws: After general discussion, Bonnie moved to approve the amendment; Kit seconded and the motion was approved.

Discussion with Ruth about the involvement of FOL with fundraising: Ruth suggested that FOL might create a separate committee to oversee fundraising. She thought they would need help with managing the funds and bookkeeping. Judy thought the library expansion might require a professionally-managed capital campaign in addition to the efforts of FOL.

12. *Open discussion*

None

13. *Adjournment*

Maureen moved that the meeting be adjourned, Bonnie seconded and the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

Submitted by John Beardsley, Secretary

Signed _____ Dated _____
President