

## **Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Regional Library**

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### **Minutes of Board Meeting October 26, 2022**

#### **Meeting Room 127, Stryker Center**

**Attending:** Jean Stettler, Christopher Gareis, Feather Foster, Natalie Miller-Moore, Nina Simone, Toni Sturdivant, Nicole Trifone, and Andrew Trivette.

Friends of WRL Foundation (FWRLF) President Sam Sadler; Library Director Betsy Fowler; library staff members Aubrey Buck, Desiree Parker, Sandy Towers, and Katherine Wilkins.

**Absent:** Grace Boone, Felicia Highland, and Theresa Owens.

**Call to Order:** Chair Stettler called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Public Comment:** None.

**Mission Moment:** Ms. Miller-Moore had a meeting with a person whose childcare cancelled, and they chose to meet at the James City County Library to conduct business while the child played in the Idea Studio. It is a great resource for the community.

**Consent Calendar:** Edit Ms. Stettler's name on the final page to correctly read Stettler. The calendar is to be accepted with the amended correction of Ms. Stettler's name. Ms. Trifone moved to approve the consent calendar. Ms. Miller-Moore seconded the motion; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **Chair's Report:**

##### **Committee Updates**

- **Finance Committee:** Ms. Boone, Ms. Owens, and Mr. Trivette will join Ms. Stettler on the Finance Committee. Ms. Binsfeld will organize a meeting in November.
- **Advocacy:** Ms. Miller-Moore encouraged board members to become familiar with the Talking Points Regarding Williamsburg Library Location. Within the community there are multiple conversations regarding community spaces, and we should promote our library project in those conversations where appropriate. We are working towards a vision of what a 21st century library will be for our community. Ms. Miller-Moore encouraged board members to visit one of the new Henrico County libraries that have been built in last 10 years. They have podcast studios, teen rooms, various seating options, kitchen facilities, and so forth. Ms. Stettler added that the WRL website has a page addressing the planning for a new library space. Mr. Sadler recommended all should speak with their local government representative (county supervisor or city council member).

Local Elections: As it is election season, Ms. Stettler recommended paying attention to candidates' views on banning books.

**Library Director's Report:**

- **Action Item: Resolution - Natural Landscape Playground** – Mr. Trivette moved to approve the Resolution - Natural Landscape Playground. Ms. Simone seconded the motion; the motion was approved by a unanimous vote.
- **Strategic Plan update:** The current two-year strategic plan will end December 2022. Based on earlier discussions, the existing plan will be updated for the short term. Preliminary work on the vision has begun and Ms. Towers and the staff are working on the implementation section. A draft will be distributed to the board ahead of the December meeting.
- **FY 2024 Budget update:** York County has requested budget data by November 1, 2022, earlier than in previous years. Ms. Binsfeld is working to meet this deadline. Upon initial projections, the library anticipates being able to stay under the 5% cap thus not requesting an exception to the contract. Additionally, Ms. Fowler has informed Neil Morgan York County's use has increased by 22.98% in the last year, likely due to the Yorktown library branch being closed for renovation.

Behavior and Meeting Room policies: The WRL attorney at Sands Anderson has received the Behavior and Meeting Room Policies and has yet to return recommendations.

Media update: To minimize confusion and better inform the public, several articles have been published in the local press regarding the needs for a new building. Additionally, the library will host public information sessions on November 2nd at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the Williamsburg Library Theatre.

Glycol containers: City of Williamsburg is helping to dispose of the glycol containers at Williamsburg Library.

JCCL Restroom project: Work is delayed as James City County seeks a structural engineering evaluation of the water damaged wall between the men's and women's restrooms.

Natural Landscape Playground: LandTech Engineering will be conducting a topographical and tree survey around James City County Library as the initial step in developing a plan for the new natural landscape playground.

JCCL Teen Room: The technology for this space has been ordered with funding from the Friends, and with funding from this Board the furniture is being ordered. A winter opening is anticipated.

One Book, One Community: *The New American* by Micheline Aharonain Marcom is the selection for One Book, One Community.

**Friends of WRL Foundation Updates:** Mr. Sadler reported the Friends and area Kiwanis Clubs are increasing their activities to fund the natural landscape playground. The Kiwanis have already pledged \$92,000 and the Friends have contributed \$30,000 for planning. The Virginia Library Association honored the Friends with the Friends of the Year award. Mr. Sadler expressed gratitude to the library for the nomination and to the Virginia Library Association for the award. Annual appeal requests will be mailed at the end of this month.

Mr. Sadler urged the Board to contribute, as having 100% board participation will aid in future funding applications.

**City of Williamsburg Update:** Mr. Trivette reported in a recent meeting with James City County there was discussion about participating in a joint library project. Mr. Trivette has been asked by City Council to draft a letter inviting James City County and York County to participate in a new library building project at the Scotland Street location.

**James City County Update:** None.

**York County Update:** None.

**Other Business:** None.

**Adjournment:** Ms. Stettler moved to adjourn at 4:00 p.m. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Katherine Wilkins

Approved by 

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Jean Stettler, Chair