

Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Regional Library

Minutes of Board Meeting May 24, 2023

Stryker Center, Meeting Room 127

Attending: Christopher Gareis, Felicia Highland, Feather Foster, Natalie Miller-Moore, Nina Simone, Toni Sturdivant, Nicole Trifone, and Andrew Trivette

Library Director Betsy Fowler; library staff members Carrie Binsfeld, Benjamin Goldberg, Lisa Hilleary, Desiree Parker, and Katherine Wilkins.

Absent: Jean Stettler, Grace Boone, and Theresa Owens.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Gareis called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Public Comment: None.

Mission Moment: Mr. Gareis shared how helpful the staff was with helping his neighbor, who is receiving memory care, reconnect with a series he read as a teen. Ms. Sturdivant commended Ms. Fowler, Ms. Davis, and WRL staff with the services provided in the Grove area.

Consent Calendar: Mr. Gareis asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes. The April 26, 2023 consent calendar was approved as written.

Chair's Report:

- Nominating Committee: Ms. Miller-Moore presented the slate of officers: Jean Stettler for Chair, Nina Simone for Vice Chair, and Felicia Highland for Secretary. The slate of officers will be considered for approval at the June meeting. Ms. Miller-Moore also reminded the board about onboarding and training information for the board.
- Evaluation Committee: Ms. Simone reported the evaluation committee has received and will share with board members the library director's self-evaluation, the responses from the staff survey, and letters from the community representatives. Board member evaluation forms will be sent by Ms. Simone. The board members are requested to return their evaluations to Ms. Simone by Tuesday, June 6.

Library Director's Report:

Ms. Fowler shared the library staff are comparing proposals from two insurance providers for Property, Automobile, Local Government Liability including Public Officials, Workers Compensation, and other miscellaneous coverages.

Ms. Fowler commended the Friends of WRL Foundation for the Best Friends event held on May 6, 2023. Sandra Treadwell, the Librarian of Virginia, was the keynote speaker. Approximately 135 people attended and many shared how critical a role the library played for them during the pandemic.

Ms. Fowler attended a recent meeting of the James City County Board of Supervisors and presented the Library Building Committee Recommendation. She reviewed the committee's recommendation for a two-phase library facility plan. Mr. Trivette shared the Williamsburg City Council is planning to compose a memorandum of

agreement to formalize the recommendation. Ms. Fowler is working with the City to initiate an updated space-needs assessment and to provide the jurisdictions with an analysis of York County use of WRL to aid in their funding discussions.

The wooded portion of the natural landscape playground at JCCL will be scaled back some after receiving feedback from the county that a special use permit would be required to use the entire wooded section.

The JCCL restroom project is moving forward with the County reviewing the plans and preparing the bid documents.

Friends of WRL Foundation Updates: No report.

City of Williamsburg Update: Mr. Trivette reported the City Council has finalized the budget with funding committed to the new library building design.

James City County Update: No report.

York County Update: No report.

Other Business: None.

Adjournment: Mr. Trivette moved to adjourn at 3:46 p.m. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by,

Katherine Wilkins

Chris Gareis, Vice Chair