

Board of Trustees of the Williamsburg Regional Library

Minutes of Board Meeting August 23, 2023

Stryker Center, Meeting Room 127

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

Friends of WRL Foundation (FWRLF) President Sam Sadler.

Library Director Betsy Fowler; library staff members Carrie Binsfeld, Desiree Parker, Melissa Simpson, Sandy Towers, Katherine Wilkins.

Absent: Felicia Highland

Call to Order: Chair Stettler called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Public Comment: None.

Mission Moment: Congratulations to the library and staff in recognition as Virginia Library of the Year for 2023. Mr. Gareis noted the dichotomy of the issue of the grinder pump malfunctioning at Williamsburg Library on the heels of the announcement of the award.

Consent Calendar: Ms. Stettler asked for any additions, corrections, or deletions to the minutes. The June 28, 2023 consent calendar was approved as written.

Chair's Report:

- **Action Item: Response to James City County Regarding Contract Modifications**

Ms. Stettler introduced a letter received on behalf of the James City County Board of Supervisors, from Mr. Kinsman, the County Attorney which informed the WRL Board of Trustees, the Williamsburg City Council, and the York County Board of Supervisors of their request to amend the 5th Amended and Restated Contract for a Regional Library System. The recipients of the letter are requested to respond of their willingness to engage in such discussions before September 1, 2023. Ms. Trifone stated she will abstain from discussion and voting on this issue.

Ms. Miller-Moore introduced the following motion:

I, Natalie Miller-Moore, motion the Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees indicate their willingness to engage in discussion with the City of Williamsburg City Council, the James City County Board of Supervisors, and the York County Board of Supervisors regarding James City County's desire to modify the 5th Amended Contract for a Regional Library System. The Board of Trustees recognizes the significant public service benefits and success of a cooperative regional library system and looks forward to working with all parties to strengthen and preserve the system for the region.

Ms. Simone seconded the motion. Chair Stettler asked for any discussion. Ms. Fowler noted the attorneys for both the Williamsburg City Council and York County Board of Supervisors have responded in the affirmative to engage in discussions to modify the Contract by letter and email. A suggestion to add, "We urge the process be completed with all due speed." was offered by ex-officio, Mr. Sadler. Ms. Miller-Moore motioned to amend with the following

added to end of the paragraph, *"We urge the process be completed will all due speed."* Ms. Boone seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote with one abstention, Ms. Trifone.

Upon further discussion, Ms. Owens motioned to further amend the previous motion to include language regarding that the agreement recommended by the ad hoc facilities task force proceed independent of contract discussion so as not to uphold planning for the Williamsburg Library. Mr. Trivette seconded. The motion was approved by unanimous vote with one abstention, Ms. Trifone. Ms. Miller-Moore withdrew her second motion and made the following motion:

I, Natalie Miller-Moore, move the Board of Trustees indicate their willingness to engage in discussion with the City of Williamsburg City Council, the James City County Board of Supervisors, and the York County Board of Supervisors regarding James City County's desire to modify the 5th Amended and Restated Contract for a regional library system. The Board of Trustees recognizes the significant public service benefits and success of a cooperative regional library system and looks forward to working with all parties to strengthen and preserve the system for the region.

Due to the urgent need for a new building to replace the Williamsburg Library, we request that the memorandum of agreement, recommended by the ad hoc facilities task force regarding the planned library buildings, be approved and continue to proceed independent of the Contract discussion. We urge that the process be completed with all due speed.

Ms. Foster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote with one abstention, Ms. Trifone. The motion carried.

Library Director's Report: Ms. Fowler shared a full-page ad funded by the Friends of WRL Foundation for the Saturday, August 26 issue of the *Virginia Gazette*. The ad recognizes WRL as the Virginia Library of the Year 2023 and markets the library's successes in the last year. Banners will be posted around city square alternating between Library of the Year 2023 and National Star Library. The award will be presented at the Virginia Library Association Conference, October 22-24, 2023, in Dulles, Virginia.

Ms. Fowler advised the board of possible contract considerations that could be updated as part of the contract modification.

Ms. Fowler restated the ad hoc building task force recommendation of a five year plan to build two libraries at 35,000 or greater square footage with work to begin on the Williamsburg Library. Ms. Fowler then presented the revised August 2023 Space Needs Summary conducted by RRMM Lukmire Architects. Based on the space needs summary, Lukmire provided options of varying square footage and costs. These options will be presented to the City of Williamsburg City Council.

Ms. Fowler updated the Board on various facilities projects at JCCL. The bid process has begun on the JCCL Restroom project. Planning for the JCCL Adult Renovations will be determined once the JCCL Restroom project budget has been determined. Fundraising discussions are continuing with the Friends and area Kiwanis Clubs for the JCCL Natural Landscape Playground. Installation for the JCCL Idea Studio sensory corner will begin this month. Work is anticipated to begin on the JCCL Podcasting Studio, funded by the Friends, later this year. The JCCL Teen Room, which opened in March, is increasing in popularity.

Friday nights throughout the summer featured Teen Nights Out. These programs have helped build and strengthen connections amongst the teens.

Friends of WRL Foundation Updates: Mr. Sadler announced the FWRLF will have its next regular meeting on September 26, 2023. The Friends are planning the fund raising for the natural landscape playground. Additionally, the annual appeal will start earlier this fall.

City of Williamsburg Update: No updates.

James City County Update: No updates.

York County Update: No updates.

Other Business: None.

Closed Session: Mr. Gareis moved the board go into closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia for a personnel matter. Ms. Foster seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all. The board began the discussion at 4:52 p.m. and concluded at 4:59 p.m. Mr. Gareis moved the board end the closed session. Ms. Foster seconded the motion; the motion was approved by all present at the closed session.

At the conclusion of the closed meeting, Mr. Gareis moved Certification of the Closed Meeting as follows:

Whereas, the Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Virginia; and

Whereas, Section 2.2-3707 (D) of the Code of Virginia require a certification by this board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees hereby certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, (1) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (2) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Williamsburg Regional Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Trifone seconded, and the motion was approved with a unanimous vote.

A roll call vote was taken.

VOTES	AYE	NAY	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
STETTLER	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
SIMONE	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
HIGHLAND	_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
BOONE	_____	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
FOSTER	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
GAREIS	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
MILLER-MOORE	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____

MINUTES APPROVED 09/20/2023

OWENS	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
STURDIVANT	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
TRIFONE	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____
TRIVETTE	<u>X</u>	_____	_____	_____

Mr. Gareis reported the board discussed only items pertinent to a personnel issue of the library director.

Adjournment: Mr. Gareis moved to adjourn at 5:00 p.m. All agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved by

Katherine Wilkins

Jean Stettler, Chair