

**DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES**  
**Thursday, March 21, 2019 6-8 p.m.**  
**North Regional, 221 Milton Road**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meli Kimathi called the meeting to order at 6:12 p.m.

Present: Mrinmay Biswas, Phillip Harris, Meli Kimathi, Hank Kinsley, Luis Olivieri-Robert, Willis Whichard

Absent: Sandra Chambers, Angela Wilson

Staff: Terry Hill, Sandra Lovely, Kathy Makens, Anita Robinson, Jan Seabock, Bryan Wymore

Absent: Michelle Burton -Friends Liaison

Absent: James Hill - Board of County Commissioners Liaison

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

A public comment was made by Leslie Gartrell, asking the Board to reconsider two books, along with Jan Seabock, Collection Development Administrative Librarian, to discuss the “reconsideration” process.

Ms. Gartrell, an educator and mother, checked out a few Babar books from the picture book section. Ms. Gartrell found “The Story of Babar” and “The Travels of Babar” to have disturbing images and words and she would like them to be removed. A summary of the committee’s process for reviewing her request was given. The committee recommended to retain the book in the collection. The Director agreed with that decision. Ms. Gartrell then appealed the request. Now the issue comes before the BOT to advise the Director. Mr. Kinsley will establish a date by which the BOT should give additional recommendations to Ms. Baggett, who will make a final decision based on the BOT recommendations at the May meeting.

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve January minutes, with one minor spelling correction: H. Kinsley Second: P. Harris

Motion passed unanimously.

## **Old Business**

The Advocacy Breakfast will be held on Friday, October 11 at 8:30 am at North Regional Library. Catering will be provided by Northern High School's culinary arts program, providing a traditional bacon and eggs breakfast.

Ms. Baggett reminds the BOT this is their signature event and staff will assist with securing a location and funding for the event.

Program and invitation should be drafted by May 7 and shared at the May BOT meeting. Save-the-dates should be sent out by July 1.

Program ideas include:

- Ms. Baggett provide an update on Main renovation
- Ms. Croker present on the Entrepreneurship program
- A presentation on partnership with the schools

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7.

## **III. STRATEGIC PLAN (S. Lovely)**

Ms. Lovely distributed a handout of presentation slides relating to the library's strategic goals. She discussed priority goals, the committee's role, objectives and how they will be converted to SMART objectives.

Internal and external handouts were developed to share the information with staff and community.

Ms. Lovely cited "Ask a Librarian" and a strategic initiative form that will be available on the website for feedback. The Library utilizes the results of the Durham County Community Survey and the Library Edge Survey as measuring tools to assess library services. Mr. Oliverieri-Robert affirms the importance of stakeholder participation.

## **New Business**

The BOT recommends Camilla Meek to replace Dawn Trembath, who resigned.

The Board will need a replacement for trustee Angela Wilson, who will resign after April 15<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Baggett recommends we consider what skill-sets are needed on the Board.

## **REPORTS FROM LIBRARY STAFF**

### **Location Manager report on behalf of S. Fennell (B. Wymore)**

Staffing:

There is only one vacant position in Circulation that is in the process of being filled.

#### Security:

Our security is experienced and has a good understanding of our policies and how to properly enforce them. We are finally in a good rhythm and pleased with the response to security concerns.

#### Children's Services:

Molly Schaffer has joined the Children's unit as a library assistant. She is from Forsyth County and is a great addition to our team. The Children's Unit hosts regular, ongoing programs including preschool & toddler story times, crafts for kids, afterschool STEAM sessions, and a storytelling & gaming club. Several special events, co-hosted by community partners, will occur in the upcoming months. On Saturday, March 16 at 11:00 am, North Regional Library hosted a St. Patrick's Day concert by the Durham Flute Choir. Beginning Wednesday, April 3 staff will host the monthly 10:30 am story time on the rooftop of the downtown Durham Hotel. On Saturday, April 6 at 11:00 am, staff will co-host an Apollo 11 themed story time with Durham Parks & Recreation at the Habitat for Humanity Restore. Attendees will enjoy reliving the feel and excitement of the 1969 moon-landing while watching the historic NASA footage in a 1960's living room. Finally, North Regional will partner with our neighbors, the Hub Farm, for a summer season of outdoor story times and scavenger hunts on the education-focused farm site.

#### Teens Services:

Teen Services has been working closely with Hub Farm to increase volunteer participation among teens. We are offering incentive programs for teens who have volunteered a set number of hours, such as a pizza party or a Peeps Taste Test Event. In February, we had 32 teen volunteers (which includes tutors). Scott and I are also working on planning the Homeschool Conference the end of May, where we invite community partners to table and have speakers present.

#### Adult Services:

Adult Services is putting on a Romance Book Festival featuring both locally and nationally recognized authors in the genre. It will run a full day on Saturday, May 11. This is courtesy of a grant from the Friends of the Durham Library, who will also be running a special romance book sale on the day of the festival. We are planning ahead for Summer Reading and during Launch week, we will have a guest artist in from the Durham Arts Council to teach a class on tile mosaics. We will also be hosting astronomer Fabian Heitsch from UNC Chapel Hill on Kick-off Day. We are also introducing a new 2-part computer class this spring: Microsoft Word for Resumes.

#### Circulation Services:

We have resumed weeding of the collection based on condition of the books and the number of duplicates. This is being done to create space for our growing collection.

## Manager Summary:

Since November the periodicals room has been converted into a staff work area which in turn opened the second private study room to the public. We have worked hard over the past few months to declutter and make North Regional a warm and inviting space. On March 14th we were selected as a featured location for a video that was created using staff members and will be presented at the State of the County address. Since my arrival in January 2019 there have been many changes that everyone has managed to successfully adjust to. The team here at North Regional seems to be in a good space of comfort and camaraderie at this time.

## Health Report (T. Baggett)

Results of the City-County Residents Satisfaction survey were positive for Durham County Library. Durham has consistently exceeded the National Satisfaction Rate. In 2017, we dropped to 74% most likely due to the closure of Main. We are currently at 77%.

## Communication Report (T. Baggett)

**Branching Out** (children's and teen program guide) digital publication continues to grow in its online format. This format allows for 100% inclusion of programs.

**Adult Programs Brochure** Spring edition was mailed mid-March.

**Social Media Campaigns** We continue working to increase our social media presence and following on Facebook and Twitter. Through our editorial calendars we can share library events and other applicable items, to better engage our audiences. We are now over 6,000 Facebook followers, and for the month of February, we gained an average of 7 new followers a day (general average is 2 per day).

**Email Campaign** Our email campaign through the Savannah system is ongoing and continues to engage. The program consists of multiple pieces, including a monthly program highlights e-newsletter. For the first time, during February 2019, active Durham County Library card holders topped 98,000 people.

## **RECENT OR UPCOMING PROGRAMS OF INTEREST** **CHILDREN'S DAY – BOOK DAY / DÍA DEL NIÑO - DÍA DEL LIBRO** **Saturday, April 27, 11:00 a.m.**

Durham Public Schools Staff Development Center, 2107 Hillandale Rd.  
Durham County Library, in collaboration with Book Harvest and the Durham Public Schools Multilingual Resource Center, is proud to host Dia del Niño - Día del libro (Children's Day – Book Day), an official event of the NC Science Festival. Take home free books, make robots and circuits, play outdoor games, and make crafts! This event is free and open to the public.

## **TURNING THE PAGE: DURHAM'S READING HISTORY**

**April – June**

Southwest Regional Library

In celebration of the City of Durham's 150th anniversary of incorporation, take a stroll through the past, brought to life through pictures depicting Durham citizens engaged in reading, at the library, and visiting the bookmobile. This photographic exhibit is built in collaboration between Durham County Library's Art Committee and the North Carolina Collection.

## **FOLKSINGING PROGRAMS WITH ADAM MILLER**

The brilliant, knowledgeable, and talented Adam Miller returns with his delightful blend of music, history, and entertainment for three shows!

### **The Real McCoy: The Irish Roots of Traditional American Folksongs**

**Monday, Apr. 22, 6:30 p.m.**

North Regional Library

This entertaining sing-along program traces the evolution of traditional Irish ballads and melodies that have become firmly entrenched in American folk music.

### **Cowboy Songs and Frontier Ballads**

**Tuesday, Apr. 23, 6:30 p.m.**

Southwest Regional Library

An introduction to Western folklore and folksongs: the stories and songs of real, hard-working American cowboys, and the caricatures and legends that have evolved about the West.

### **Folksongs of the First World War**

**Wednesday, Apr. 24, 1 p.m.**

South Regional Library

Seventy million military personnel participated in the First World War (1914-1918), the so-called "War to End All Wars." Many of the songs of this war have become part of the English language oral tradition.

### **Advocacy Report (M. Kimathi)**

The advocacy report was shared in advance.

### **Art Committee (M. Biswas)**

Committee has been meeting regularly and expresses a strong desire to be included in the process of art selection for Main. Ms. Baggett responds that representation from the Library Art Committee has been included for external art selection at Main Library.

## **SPECIAL REPORTS**

### **Friends of Durham County Library Report (M. Burton)**

The Friends continue to prepare for leaving Northgate Mall and returning to Main Library.

### **Durham County Library Foundation Report (T. Baggett)**

The Foundation is continuing their fundraising efforts for Main Library.

**Action Items (M. Kimathi)**

Request for Reconsideration – BOT will submit suggestions to the Director by May 1.

Board Development Committee will meet prior to May meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made to adjourn by Mr. Kinsley Second: Mr. Whichard  
The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.