

Chair Hank Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Present: Aquaris Anderson, Tracy Jackson, Hank Kinsley, Tal Matalon, Ann McLain, Miranda Straubel, Carl Newman, Willis Whichard

Friends Liaison: Monika Tillman-DeWitt

Absent: kynita stringer-stanback, Anita Robinson

Staff: Tammy Baggett, Jana Bradley

Guests:

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Motion to approve March minutes: W. Whichard. Second: T. Matalon

Minutes approved unanimously.

## **Business Services Report - Jana Bradley**

Jana provided the Board with an overview of the business services provided at the Main Library. Business Services sees a range of users from small business owners in the morning to high school and college students from all area schools in the afternoon. Co-working spaces are at a premium as students work together on projects; staff provide help with resources and connections. Fortunately, Business Services is now fully staffed with 3 full-time and 2 part-time members.

Jana described some of the many programs and events sponsored by Business Services, including a program on resilience and creativity for Durham Tech, regular "Ask Us" sessions on data and resources, and financial literacy sessions for youth. Business Services estimates that they have provided \$5.3 million in business value to the community.

Business Services was a participant in November's Bull City Business Summit, with a goal of providing learning and networking opportunities to local entrepreneurs. There were about 200 registrations, and 10-12 business attendees. Business Services has also partnered with the E3 program, which provides free business services for the community, and is hosting a workshop and conversation as part of the CityScapes convention in May, which will bring in visitors from around the world.

Also coming up is a story walk in partnership with Ellerbe Creek Waterways, and a digital exhibit in partnership with Stagville, which will feature Stagville and its connection with Durham's history.

Jana emphasized that Business Services is focused on outreach and will go anywhere to meet with folks!

### **Old Business**

Nothing to discuss.

### **New Business**

**Annual Policy Updates:** Hank recently spoke with Stephanie Fennell about updating policies in May for approval in June.

An ad hoc policy committee for 2024 was formed. Members: T. Matalon, T. Jackson, A. Anderson and H. Kinsley.

### **Bomb Threat**

There were 3 Library Fest events scheduled for Saturday, April 13, including the morning Rainbow Story Time. An email, which specifically mentioned the author of the book, was received at WBTV in Charlotte, which contacted the Durham police. The police and the sheriff's department arrived quickly and evacuated the building. Staff remained in safe areas until a thorough search of the building was complete, after which the library closed for the remainder of the day.

Throughout Saturday, and on each of the successive days following the threat, T. Baggett was in close communication with county leadership, city leadership, county HR and security, as well as with staff. EAP was on site Monday morning and County Equitable Well Being was on site as well to support staff at Main and other locations.

No previous Rainbow Story Times have been targeted; staff has initiated discussion with the Rainbow Coalition for Change, and will continue to meet. The Library will continue to host the Rainbow Story Times and develop plans to manage any further harassment.

The County budget is flat for this year, but T. Baggett has asked for money for metal detectors at Main, as there have been other incidents at the library. The Library needs to balance safety with being a welcoming community space.

June is Pride Month, and the library is planning events as usual. Staff are discussing additional measures to ensure that events are safe.

The Board expressed support and thanks to T. Baggett for her leadership during this deeply unsettling threat to the Library.

### **Southwest Repairs**

The roof at Southwest has some issues, so there is caution tape up. T. Baggett anticipates having to close that location for repair two different times for an undetermined length of time each. SW staff will be dispersed to other sites during the closures.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Advocacy Committee (W. Whichard)**

The Advocacy Committee has not met. The Board had a brief discussion of holding the next advocacy breakfast in January or February to include the new elected officials.

### **Board Development Committee (H. Kinsley)**

The Board Development Committee has not met. T. Matalon will send the survey out immediately.

## **Special Reports**

**Friends of the Library (M. Tillman-DeWitt)** The Friends held a retreat a couple of months ago and are working to realize some of the ideas from that retreat. A DVD sale was held on April 20. The Friends are working with the Museum of Durham History to plan some events at the Books Among Friends space. The Friends brought ice cream for Staff Appreciation Day, which they delivered to all the branches.

### **Durham Library Foundation (W. Whichard)**

The Foundation Board has not met since March; Executive Director Karen Wells is out for surgery and activities are paused until she returns.

**Follow up on action items:** T. Baggett has spoken with the marketing department, and we can start to advertise the board meetings via the Library website and the Main bulletin board. The Marketing folks recommend posting each meeting separately, rather than posting the full year's schedule.

### **Actions:**

- A. Robinson: Post the June Board Meeting date/time on the website and bulletin board.
- H. Kinsley: Coordinate policy review with Stephanie and the policy committee.
- H. Kinsley: Coordinate with Anita to post the Board opening by June.
- We will vote for new Board officers at the June meeting; H. Kinsley to convene the nominating committee in advance of the June meeting. Ad hoc nominating committee will consist of H. Kinsley, C. Newman and A. McLain.
- T. Baggett to email library reports.

Motion to adjourn: W. Whichard

Adjourned at 7:37 pm

