DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Thursday, May 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.
Main Library

Call to Order

Carl Newman, presiding at request and in absence of Chair Willis Whichard, called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Present: Aquaris Anderson, Ivan Francis, Tracy Jackson, Leah Josephson, Tal Matalon, Carl Newman, kynita stringer-stanback

Absent: Ann McLain, Willis Whichard

Friend Liaison: Monika Tillman-DeWitt

Library Staff: ACM Tammie Hall, Stephanie Fennell, Sarah Alverson

Guest: Lou Wick

Public Comments
Lou Wick attended the meeting to express concern over the new library security measures. They shared that it has affected them personally, and for them and people they know it is very invasive. They feel the security guards, wanding, and bag-searching are not effective security measures and don't address problems the library is facing. They shared they understand the board does not control this, but wanted to express their concerns. They also indicated they have tried to reach out to library staff, and also had some difficulties finding information about this board meeting.

Approval of April Minutes
The April minutes were approved with no changes.

Location Report: Sarah Alverson, Community Engagement Administrator
Sarah Alverson gave an overview of her unit's areas including Accessibility Services, Spanish-Speaking Services, the Bookmobile, the Techmobile, OASIS, and Maker and STEAM. She shared the staff of her unit has seen some staff turnover in the past year, with current staff organizing and running a large number of programs, activities, and innovations.

- The Bookmobile has increased the number of stops it makes per month more than 500%, serving a variety of age groups and with high book turnover. They have had more Bookmobile success working with organizations rather than stopping at retail or housing locations.
- OASIS programs are being diversified.
- Spanish-speaking services have an energetic new coordinator who has done more than 22 programs just in the last month, utilized community partnerships, offered English as a

Second Language courses, and hosted a popular youth program, Homework con Amigos.

- Accessibility services: a staff position reclassification has been successful and they have brought in a Disabled computer programmer to teach programming to people with disabilities. Staff have also gone to Wake County libraries to discuss the sensory room.
- The Techmobile is broken.
- STEAM has a new 3D scanner and is exploring bicycle stations at different library locations. By not having to work reference desk shifts, STEAM staff have been able to organize and run more programs and work with staff at branch locations to train them to do additional programs.
- Read-a-thon was a major hit and attendees expressed interest in doing it again.
- Food crawl this year will be pizza.
- They are exploring changes to summer reading, revamping it to summer engagement and focusing on outreach.

Board Business

Old Business: none at this time.

New Business:

Three current Board members whose initial terms are ending need to re-apply by the end of May.

There will be one vacancy with Judge Whichard rotating off; the opening is currently posted.

The county wants all applications in by end of May, and the Commissioners will vote on appointments at their meeting after their budget meeting in early June.

The Board should review applications before our June meeting to allow for discussion at that meeting ahead of making a recommendation to the Commissioners.

After realizing the June meeting was currently scheduled for Juneteenth, although it was not posted on the website, the Board agreed to move the June meeting to June 12.

At our last meeting, nominating committee presented slate of candidates, for voting during this meeting. There was no call for discussion.

The slate was approved with six approvals and one abstention.

Finally, since the June meeting will be Judge Whichard's last meeting on the Board, the Board agreed on having a cake and celebrating his tenure.

Committee Reports

Advocacy: kynita stringer-stanback

The Advocacy Committee will likely meet soon to discuss what else the committee and the Board can do in addition to the Advocacy Breakfast, particularly as a potential follow-up to security concerns.

Development: Tracy Jackson

No new development since last meeting. The committee is discussing meeting more regularly to work on the strategic plan.

Friends Update: Monika Tillman-DeWitt:

Several sales are coming up, including a CD sale at the end of May and an in-person sale June 6&7. Currently have 579 active members. They have awarded two scholarships for future librarians (people attending library school) and want to consider outreach to get a larger applicant pool. They provided breakfast and lunch for staff development today. Finally, they have a new marketing handout placed at the Carolina Theater, which Monika Tillman-DeWitt showed to the Board.

Foundation Report: Carl Newman

The Foundation Board hasn't met since last Board meeting, but will meet next week.

Final event in Humanities Lecture series is Bakari Sellers, June 3. They are also considering exploring videoing these events, as there is always a waitlist.

Library Report: ACM Tammie Hall and Stephanie Fennell

Today was Staff Development day, which went well. The County Manager attended this morning and spoke to staff.

The Library Director job posting will go up tomorrow and be live for 30 days. Staff will have some input when it gets down to last two candidates. The Board discussed with ACM Hall possible timelines for the final candidates' visits with staff and how the Board can be involved.

The enhanced screening (security checks) has started, and they have received some feedback already; practices will be tweaked along the way.

Policy revision work is done, and the next step is for Stephanie Fennell to work with the ad hoc Policy Committee of the Board. Judge Whichard suggested appointing Ivan Francis, Leah Josephson, and Tal Matalon. Given the new June Board meeting date, the Board is not sure if the policies can be reviewed and discussed in time for approval at that meeting, so it may be pushed to July or August.

Action Items:

Mark calendar for new meeting day, June 12 instead of June 19.

Review board applications ahead of June meeting.

Policy committee will review policies and bring to Board.

A cake for the June meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10.