

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2021
6:00 p.m.
VIA ZOOM CALL

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair Hank Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Present: Mrinmay Biswas, Michael Case, Miguel Jackson, Katie Kaefer, Hank Kinsley, Camilla Meek, Luis Olivieri-Robert, Willis Whichard

Staff: Claudia Aleman, Tammy Baggett, Monica Belford, Terry B. Hill, Jessica Lundin, Anita Robinson, Joel White

Friends Liaison: Joel Lerner

Absent: Sandra Chambers (excused absence)

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No comments were made.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve May minutes: W. Whichard Second: L. Olivieri-Robert
Minutes approved unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

No old business at this time.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Library Policies (T. Hill)

Follow up discussion regarding material hold slips which provided first and last name of customers. Circulation managers researched to compare surrounding counties. Board discussed pros and cons of changing system to provide more anonymity. A timeline will be determined to tentatively make a transition to reflect proposed changes. Mr. Hill will discuss timeline and steps with managers to confirm this is a best practice for the library system moving forward.

Nominating Committee

The nominating committee previously met to discuss recommendations for officers for the upcoming fiscal year. The committee noted that they are pleased with current leadership and thus recommend re-election of the current officers: Sandra Chambers, Chair; Hank Kinsley, Vice-Chair; and Anita Robinson, Secretary. Voting will occur at the first meeting of the fiscal year.

Program Discussion (Claudia Aleman, Monica Belford, Jessica Lundin, and Joel White)

The following information was shared via staff presentation:

Process for Programming

- Each library has its own community
- Funding (Budget, Grants, Durham Library Foundation, Friends of the Library)

- Librarians are imaginative and creative; they share their own personal knowledge and interests with the community
- What is the projected success of the program?
- External partners (Durham Parks and Rec, Nasher Museum, Durham Tech, City of Durham, Legal Aid, Digital Durham)
- System wide programming
- Space
- Have we offered this program before? Was it successful?
- Marketing (Calendar, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, Youtube)
- Evaluate

Children's Programming

- Children's Services Monthly Meetings
- Discuss program budget allocation
- Brainstorm program ideas and providers
- Collectively decide program offerings
- Determine whether same program will be offered at all locations or other options

Teen Services and Programs Offered this Year

- LGBT Teen Lock-In
- Teen Book Festivals featuring a diverse panel of authors
- Outreach to public schools with predominantly Black or Latinx populations
- Programs that appeal to all teens including gaming, escape rooms, creative writing, arts and crafts, college prep and job readiness
- Monthly programs for Latinx teens
- Inviting presenters that represent the diverse population of Durham
- Book clubs featuring books by diverse authors

Adult Programming

Main

- Dungeons and Dragons
- Poetry Live: Open Mic Nite
- Seed Saving Workshop
- Banjo Player
- Social Justice discussions

Bragtown

- Neighbor to neighbor
- Lunch with the Director
- The Science of Cleaning
- Criminal Justice Reform and the new Jim Crow

Southwest

- Empowering Young men
- German 101
- Durham coupon swap
- Zentangle

North

- Chess club
- Crochet Club

- Job Seekers' Boot Camp
- Legal Aid Clinic

South

- Poetry workshop
- Straw bale gardening
- Container gardening
- Duke's Latin dance group: Sabrosura

Stanford L. Warren

- Unrooted: The real truth about the slave trade and PTSD
- Gil Scott Heron: Pieces of a man

North

- Chess Club
- Crochet Club
- Job Seekers' Boot Camp
- Legal Aid Clinic

Community Engagement

Monica Belford meets with teen librarians monthly and a great deal of her work is shared between working with both English and Spanish speakers. School outreach programs are diverse populations allowing families the ability to learn library programs.

Bookmobile Highlights

- Parent Information Night for Book Babies at Book Harvest
- The Scrap Exchange DIY Fest
- Durham Parks and Recreation Earth Day Festival
- Education Day at the Durham Bulls Park
- Family Fun Day at Durham Head Start Leathers/Meacham
- Durham Parks and Recreation Bimbe Cultural Arts Festival
- Summer Reading stops with the Durham Public Schools summer camps.
- Summer stops at EDCI summer camp located at Maureen Joy
- Cornwallis Housing Community Bike Repair Event
- Oxford Manor Housing Community Bike Repair
- Dia Children's Day/Book Day
- Durham Parks and Recreation Earth Day Festival
- Education Day at the Durham Bulls
- During Pandemic April 2020 to March 2021 the Bookmobile delivered food to children provided by Durham Public School Park

Communication Report

The communication report was distributed to board members prior to meeting.

Advocacy Report (W. Whichard)

Advocacy Committee has not met. Committee will not plan to meet at this time.

Art Committee (M. Biswas)

Committee has not met. A report was not given at this time.

Board Development & Evaluation Committee (H. Kinsley)

Board Development & Evaluation Committee has not met. No updates at this time.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Durham County Library Foundation Report (S. Chambers)

A report was not given at this time.

Friends of the Library (J. Lerner)

Donations continue to be supplied to Friends. There are over 10,000 books available at online bookstore at this time. Sales continue to rise slowly but they are brainstorming additional sources of income due to change in circumstances. New board members as well as additional volunteers have been added to the Friends roster. Jane Kuhar has been appointed President. The Friends board will be on summer break and resume meeting in September.

Library Reports (T. Baggett)

Board vacancy recommendations were discussed and a recommendation was made by the board for the vacant position.

As of May 20, 2021, there were 45 vacant library positions. Positions are in various stages (advertising, hiring, awaiting approval, etc.).

We are beginning to explore expanded hours as well as finalizing a date for reopening Main. An opening date will be confirmed by County Leadership. Necessary work is being done to move to phase 4, which will include opening Main. Phase 5 will include extending hours. Phase 6 hours will be similar to pre-covid hours but will explore if hours will change. Staff is doing well and public is appreciative. We are also considering more of a traditional grand opening due to restrictions being lifted in North Carolina. There will be a small guest list for the event and a soft opening for the public. More information will be forthcoming. We will have at least one open house for staff and family members.

A Library Racial Equity Team, led by Stephanie Fennell has been formed and in effect since January 2021. The team will present updates to Library Friends, Library Foundation and Board of Trustees in the future. Ms. Baggett has given charges to team to include a racial audit to determine any problems that exist and determine solutions for targeted problems. Library would like to provide racial equity for all staff members.

Action Items (A. Robinson)

- Ms. Robinson will forward recommendation for the vacant board position to the Clerk's Office.
- Ms. Robinson will add today's presentation to orientation packets for future board members.
- Ms. Baggett will provide a written updated program report January 2022.

Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 19, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn: M. Biswas Second: W. Whichard
The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.