

DURHAM COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023
6:00 pm
MAIN LIBRARY

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hank Kinsley called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

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

Friends Liaison – Monika Tillman DeWitt

Staff: Tammy Baggett, Sandra Lovely, Lauren Panny, Anita Robinson

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to approve October minutes: W. Whichard Second: T. Matalon
Minutes approved with corrections unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

The board reviewed Trustees Award nominations and voted on a winner. The award will be presented on Staff Day Tuesday, December 5.

III. NEW BUSINESS

Committee Updates (W. Whichard)

The Advocacy breakfast was held at Main Wednesday, November 15 and was a successful event.

Board Development & Evaluation Committee (H. Kinsley)

The Board Development Committee did not meet but Mr. Kinsley will email board members with details for BOT retreat scheduled for Thursday, January 18, 2024.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Durham County Library Foundation Report (W. Whichard)

Willis Whichard, the Board's liaison to the Durham Library Foundation, reported that the Foundation Board met on Monday, November 14, and adopted the following policies: (1) An Operating Reserve Policy, to set aside a minimum of \$200,000 from its unrestricted funds "to meet unforeseen operating expenses or a disruption of donations used for operating expenses"; the current amount of the fund was set at \$200,000. (2) That except for those funds set aside for an operating reserve and any other reserve the Board may create from time to time, all unrestricted funds shall be placed in a Board Designated Unrestricted Investment Fund, to be managed with the Endowment Fund assets.

He also announced that the Foundation Board will be sponsoring a program at 3:00 pm on January 28, 2024, featuring David Ferriero, who recently retired as the Archivist of the United States. Because of problems with the audio-visual equipment in the Main Library Auditorium, the program will be held at the Durham Arts Council building.

Friends of the Library (M. Tillman DeWitt)

Friends of the Library will hold a holiday wrap-up at Main Library Saturday, November 18 11:00 am – 3:00 pm. An in-person sale will be held at the Friends’ store Friday, December 1 and Saturday, December 2. There will be books, CDs, DVDs, puzzles, and games. There will also be a gift-wrapping station available.

On Friday, December 1st and Saturday, December 2nd, the Friends will be holding a book sale at their Books Among Friends storefront located at 3825 South Roxboro Street. The Friday sale will be from 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm and the Saturday sale will be from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. The members-only sale on Friday will be at a 25% discount.

Friends provided pizza to staff Saturday, November 11 and will have pizza delivered to staff again on Saturday, November 25. The Friends will also deliver poinsettias for each location for the holidays. Programming grant funds will be awarded in a few weeks.

Library Reports (T. Baggett)

Ms. Baggett shared updates on Sunday hours and the board provided input and discussed.

Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Update – (S. Lovely)

The Bragtown and Southwest overall assessment for library will be used to determine how Bragtown and Southwest Regional fit into the plan.

A feasibility study was completed for Southwest parking lot.

A History of Durham County Library (L. Panny)

- Momentum to “refine” and enhance Durham’s culture began in 1895.
- 1896: land secured and money raised
- March 5, 1897: The Durham Public Library was incorporated by an act of the North Carolina General Assembly.
- February 10, 1898: the city’s first public library opened to its *white* citizens.
- Despite the early achievement of establishing the library, continued support and resources were scarce.

Lillian Baker Grigg

- Hired in 1911 to modernize the library.
- Achievements include:
 - Cataloging the library’s 3500 volumes
 - Establishing satellite locations in East and West Durham
 - Expanding the collection beyond religious and classical texts
 - Implementing story hours for children.

Expansion

- 1917: awarded a \$32,000 grant from the Carnegie Corporation.
- July 6, 1921: a new library at 311 East Main Street opened.
- 1923: first bookmobile, the *Miss Kiwanis*.
- 1923: Dr. Stanford L. Warren becomes president of the BoT of Durham Colored Library. Hattie Wooten died in 1932 and Selena Warren Wheeler became director.

1940s-1960s

- 1940: Stanford L. Warren Public Library opens its doors.

- 1942: DCL Bookmobile services introduced.
- 1944: Y.E. Smith Community Library opens.
- 1945: Ray Moore becomes director of SLW.
- 1947: Forest Hills Clubhouse branch opens.
- 1954: McDougald Terrace branch opens.
- 1960: John Avery Boys Club branch opens.
- 1961: Bragtown branch opens.
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Merging Systems

- 1965: George Linder hired to guide the merger of the two systems.
- April 15, 1966: the two library systems became the Durham City-County Library.

1967: Ray Moore becomes assistant library director of the merged system, a position she held until 1975

Modernization

- Computerization of the library's holdings and circulation began in 1988.
- The following year saw the milestone of one million volumes circulated.
- In 1997 the library began providing public Internet access.

A Regional System

- 1985: \$245,000 of county funds was designated to renovate the Stanford L. Warren branch.
- 1992: Southwest Regional Library opens
- 2001: another bond measure passes to build additional regional libraries.
- 2006: Additional renovation and re-opening of Stanford L. Warren Branch Library.
- June 16, 2006: East Regional Library opens.
- January 30, 2007: North Regional Library opens.
- 2010: South and Southwest Regional Libraries re-open after multi-year renovations.

Transformation Main

- A new bond measure passed in 2016 to renovate Main Library.
- The library expanded to 100,000 square feet and added specialized spaces for programming and events.
- After a delayed opening due to the pandemic, Main Library re-opened its doors in July 2021.

Action Items

- Mr. Kinsley will create a meeting schedule for 2024.
- Ms. Robinson will forward the 2024 meeting schedule to the Clerk's Office.
- Mr. Kinsley will present the Trustees Award to the winner at Staff Day Tuesday, December 5.
- Ms. Baggett will follow up with County Attorney and Clerk's Office for Retreat Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made to adjourn: C. Newman Second: A. McLain

The next meeting will be held Thursday, February 15, 2024 at Main Library.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.