

# Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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## A P P R O V E D

### MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 24, 2015 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Brian LaFontaine (Albemarle)  
Jane B. Kulow (Albemarle)  
Peter McIntosh (Charlottesville)  
Tamyra Turner (Charlottesville)

Gary Grant (Albemarle)  
Marcia McDuffie (Nelson)  
Carla Mullen (Charlottesville)

#### TRUSTEES ABSENT

Vice President Stephen Walls Mathis (Greene)

Wendy Wheaton Craig (Louisa)

#### OTHERS PRESENT

John Halliday, Library Director  
Ginny Reese, Staff Recorder/Greene Manager  
Tim Carrier, Young Adult Svcs. Manager  
William Lyons, Library Business Manager  
Marie Mierzejewski, Library patron  
Virginia Daugherty, NOW  
Robyn Mauney, Albemarle Co. resident  
Mary Nacey, Albemarle Co. resident  
Keeva Kase, Thomas Jefferson Center

Shawn Hirabayashi, HR Specialist  
Susan Huffman, Nelson Memorial Manager  
Tasha Birkhead, Gordon Circ. Support  
Casey Baruzzini, Crozet resident  
Toby Zakin, Albemarle Co. resident  
Janet Dix, Charlottesville NOW  
J. Joshua Wheeler, Dir. Thomas Jefferson Center  
Chris Suarez, Reporter Daily Progress  
Mike Powers, Albemarle Co. resident

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's (JMRL) Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 24, 2015, at 3:04 p.m. in the meeting room of the Nelson Memorial Library (8521 Thomas Nelson Highway, Lovingson, VA), President LaFontaine being in the chair. Trustee McIntosh made a motion for the approval of the July 27, 2015 Minutes. The July 27, 2015 Minutes were approved as presented without opposition. Trustee Kulow arrived after the vote.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

President LaFontaine announced that Vice President Mathis and Trustee Craig were unable to attend. He reminded the Board their "meet and greets" were to occur in October and November.

Trustee McIntosh mentioned that the 20 minute video that had been created for the Friends of the Library 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration had been reedited and shortened specific to each branch. These could possibly be used for outreach.

Virginia Daugherty spoke in support of the April 2015 Charlottesville NOW display at the Central Library. She felt it fit within the existing library policies. Subsequently, she handed out fliers for a "Woman's Equality Day" reception on August 26 at the Central Library.

Casey Baruzzini expressed her objection to the April 2015 Charlottesville NOW display. She felt it was overly sexual in nature and disrespectful. She asked that overtly sexual displays be banned or at least not accessible to children, and she wanted a public response from Director Halliday. She presented a petition with 210 signatures supporting her position.

Marie Mierzejewski said she had similar concerns to Ms. Baruzzini. She felt the display was not appropriate for children, that common sense be used in the future, and she is horrified that there's been no apology from the library.

Robyn Mauney, while a supporter of the library, felt personally attacked as a Christian by the April display. She also felt that the display was not age appropriate for her 6 year old twins. She asked that a like display not be allowed to reoccur.

#### WELCOME TO NELSON MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Manager Susan Huffman welcomed the Trustees to the Nelson Memorial Library. She arrived September 27, 2014 after teaching for 30 years. In her time at Nelson she has more than doubled the number of programs the Library offers and created a Teen Advisory Board. Her short-term goal is to have a "Reading Summit" with various local educational agencies in order to keep children on reading level. Her long-term goal is a building an addition – extra space is needed. She saluted her co-workers, Peggy Kerl and Phoebe Ann Tucker.

#### REVIEW OF LIBRARY DISPLAY POLICY (SECTION 4.51)

President LaFontaine read a prepared statement about the issues with the policy brought about by objections to the April 2015 display at the Central Library. Then he read highlights from a memorandum prepared by John Whitehead, President of The Rutherford Institute. In brief, there was nothing illegal about the April 2015 display, but there are concerns with the policy: In particular the provisions that displays contain "materials appropriate for all ages" and that they be

“balanced.” His recommendation was not to restrict subjects and issues or demand balance but to allow “the marketplace of ideas to play out.” President LaFontaine then introduced Joshua Wheeler. Mr. Wheeler, in essence, agreed with Mr. Whitehead’s memo. He stated that the best way to “legally” avoid controversy in the future is to eliminate public access to the displays. He added that he didn’t think this was a good solution, that avoiding controversy is impossible. Further, the calls for “common sense” and “age appropriateness” are impossible standards. He suggested the following: 1) that the “age appropriate” provision be eliminated, 2) that moving the display cases be explored, 3) that while access to the display cases be balanced, that there be no such provision regarding the content of displays, and 4) that access to the display cases be granted to non-profit institutions only. Afterwards, Trustee Grant asked if Mr. Wheeler thought that the current policy was bad. Mr. Wheeler said no, that it just needed some tweaking. There was more discussion with Mr. Wheeler concluding that what the Trustees had done to date was the proper course – allow the display to run its time then evaluate the policy. He expressed his willingness to continue advising the Board.

### **REPORT ON THE SUMMER READING PROGRAM**

Tim Carrier, Young Adult Services Manager, gave a detailed report on JMRL’s Summer Reading Program. Specifically he spoke of a study conducted by the Library of Virginia regarding the impact of summer reading programs on children’s reading skills. The study was conducted over the summers of 2013 and 2014. 4 reports are being generated from the study, the last of which won’t be out until December 2015. In summary, “children and teens who attended summer reading programs performed better academically than their nonparticipating peers.” Trustee McIntosh asked how effective JMRL was in reaching out to black or Latino children. Mr. Carrier said that was data he didn’t have access to. Trustee McDuffie queried the statistic that only 29% of teens in grade 8-12 were at or above their reading level. Mr. Carrier admitted being puzzled by that number and would research it further.

### **LIBRARY BOARD’S SELF-EXAMINATION**

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred until September’s Board meeting.

### **LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Director Halliday thanked the Trustees for their thoughtful and deliberative approach to dealing with the objections to the April 2015 display at the Central Library. He also thanked the public for their comments. He concluded that there were no legal grounds for the library staff to have excluded the display. Trustee Grant interjected that there was a need to revise the policy. Director Halliday concurred.
- There is a patron complaint regarding the meeting room policy (Policy 5.1). The patron wanted to charge an entry fee for a poetry workshop at the Scottsville Library and was, therefore, not allowed to use the library meeting room. Director Halliday stated that this was in keeping with the current policy.
- Director Halliday distributed a draft of JMRL Policy 1.7, “Records Retention and Disposition.” The changes will be voted on next meeting.
- Jacie Dunkle, owner of the Tin Whistle, will be starting a coffee service at the Northside Library starting September 8.
- Director Halliday distributed copies of the latest JMRL welcome brochure that included the names of the new Trustees.
- Before the meeting a photograph was taken of Trustee McIntosh handing Director Halliday an oversized check for \$75,000 from the Friends of the Library to JMRL for the purchase of materials for Crozet Library. This is the first of 3 annual payments the FOTL will be making to JMRL. They are the last of the funds raised by the Crozet Library Committee.
- There is a possible FOTL partnership with Books Behind Bars. The woman running it is retiring and FOTL may take over administering the program. Trustee McIntosh said a potential stumbling block is that it is a national program.
- Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director, is at a “boot camp” at Nashville Public Library sponsored by the Public Library Association. They are discussing trends in library services and library management issues.
- Orientation for Trustees Craig and McDuffie will conclude in late September or early October.
- The Technology Committee will need to meet sometime in January or February.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The Board self-evaluation. Report from Asst. Dir. Farrell. 5-year plan. Policy Committee report. A budget proposal regarding acquisition of materials. 2 policies to vote on. Visiting the new high school at Louisa.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Trustee McDuffie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed without opposition. The meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

Brian LaFontaine, President