The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library’s (JMRL) Board of Trustees was held on Monday, January 27, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. in Nelson County Memorial Library’s Meeting Room (located at 8521 Thomas Nelson Highway, Lovingston, VA 22949), President LaFontaine being in the chair. After a brief discussion regarding last month’s meeting, Trustee Mr. Grant made a motion for approval of the December 16, 2013 Minutes and Trustee Willenborg seconded the motion. The December 16, 2013 minutes were approved. Trustee Ms. Rosenthal was not present at the time the vote was taken and Trustee Ms. Turner abstained from voting as she was not present for December’s Board meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS – Branch Manager Tanith Knight welcomed JMRL’s Board members and invited them to tour the Nelson Library. The Library Director introduced JMRL’s newest addition, Abigail Harris, JMRL’s new Public Communications Specialist. Ms. Harris is a graduate from Virginia Tech and replaces Ms. Lichtman, who retired January 1st. Ms. Stella Pool replaces Ms. Lichtman in maintaining JMRL’s Web.

JMRL’S FIVE-YEAR PLAN (JULY 2014 – JUNE 2019) – The Library Director announced Stella Pool will be replacing Ms. Lichtman on the Five-Year Plan Committee. The first draft is available on JMRL’s web site. People are encouraged to give their input. So far the Committee has received approximately nine public comments. The Committee is planning to meet again at the end of February. The Committee is aiming to have a final draft available a few months early so they can bring it to the Library Board in March in time for their review and for Board approval by either their April or May meeting.

Ms. Troy, Nelson County resident, voiced her request for additional staffing in order to allow Nelson to be open more hours to the public. The draft includes under Goal #6, Objective #10: In FY 2018, JMRL’s Development Director will work with Nelson County to secure funding for expansion of Nelson Memorial Library. Nelson’s Branch Manager Tanith Knight would like to see this moved up.

POLICY COMMITTEE’S REPORT – The Policy Committee met directly following the Library Board’s December 16th meeting. Two JMRL policies were reviewed by the Policy Committee: Conduct In The JMRL (Section 4.232). Shoes should be worn in the library and the Committee suggested adding that shirts must always be worn in the library. The Committee discussed the possibility of allowing food, light snacks and beverages (kept away from library equipment), and use of cell phones that would not be disruptive to other library users. The Library Director will be discussing any suggested changes with JMRL’s managers and will bring recommendations back to the Policy Committee.

Displays of Original Art (Section 4.52). This policy is being expanded to give more direction and information regarding...
art displays at each location, for the Library Director and for the Branch Managers. The policy deletes: business cards will not be permitted. A draft was distributed to the Board with suggested changes highlighted in red. The Library Board should be able to approve the changes to the Displays of Original Art (Section 4.52) at their next meeting.

**FY 2015 LIBRARY BUDGET DISCUSSION** – JMRL’s FY 2015 Proposed Budget has already been delivered and the reception from the jurisdictions was generally positive. When refiguring the square footage of the new Northside Library space, the square footage came out lower than originally estimated. Based on current assumption, JMRL may reduce its original budget request by $119,509. Trustee Ms. Turner made a motion that based on current assumptions, JMRL should reduce other contractual services, service contracts, rent and utilities by $119,509 from what was proposed in the original budget. Trustee Mr. Grant seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

**LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT** – VLA Magazine-Page 23 in VLA’s October-December 2013 issue showed JMRL’s Trustee Peter McIntosh as recipient of the Trustee Award and employee Christopher Smith was shown receiving an enlarged VLA Scholarship check for $2,500 as a recipient of VLA’s Stanley Award. Article from The Daily Progress-The Daily Progress had a Letter to the Editor from a Nelson County Resident about Why Pay a Fee to Use the Library? Posted on December 27, 2013. President LaFontaine mentioned Scottsville’s representative Jane Dittmar also showed her concern for charging out-of-area fees in the Scottsville area. Crozet’s Circulation-The first month at the new library, Crozet’s circulation went up over 70%. October was up 82% and November 86%. Northside-The new Northside Library goes out to bid with construction scheduled to begin early March. Albemarle plans to move some of the storage items in May and move JMRL into the building in October. State Aid-The former Governor did not recommend an increase in State Aid to public libraries in FY2015. The Library Director encouraged the Trustees to participate in encouraging their representatives to support State Aid and a budget amendment to add $1.5 million to State Aid in FY 2015. Two graphs were distributed showing the history of State Aid since 1980 (State Aid Allocation showing from the 1980’s to 2012/2013 and Unmet Allocation Eligibility covering the same period). State Aid was at 100% in 2001 and JMRL was able to add approximately 52,000 books to the collection. Last year JMRL could only add 29,000 books. Thirteen years ago the per capita State Aid was calculated at $4.70 and today’s per capita is at $2.91. JMRL receives the second highest amount of State Aid in Virginia (Central Rappahannock is first) and it is important our state representatives are contacted. Zinio Users-JMRL’s online magazine service (Zinio) signups more than doubled between Christmas and New Year’s from 59 up to 167. 2013 Book Mending-Last year over 1,000 hours were spent mending over 5,263 books. The Library Director thanked Melissa Dickens and the many dedicated volunteers for their valuable work. Card Registrations-At the end of the 2013 calendar year, 3,638 inactive accounts were deleted from the system. JMRL-Bad Weather-During bad weather JMRL’s main concern is staff safety. Very few people can walk to work. Conditions are monitored and other agencies and library locations are checked to see how they plan to handle weather conditions for their area. Staff can check their televisions, radios, websites, or phone in to JMRL and listen to instructions. The Bookmobile follows the decision made by the Albemarle Schools. Out-of-Area Fees-JMRL plans to do an annual review of the out-of-area fees and will be bringing an updated report to the Board. Trustee Willenborg’s Farewell as a Board Member-Today was Trustee Ms. Willenborg’s last meeting. She was presented with an engraved silver bowl and eight books were selected for Greene County Library in her honor having a special bookplate inserted to commemorate Trustee Willenborg’s service to JMRL covering from 2006-2014. (Books: The Amazing World of Rice by Marie Simmons; An Astronaut’s Guide to Life on Earth by Col. Chris Hadfield; Brainstorm: The Power and the Purpose of the Teenage Brain by Daniel J. Siegel; How Remarkable Women Lead by Joanna Barsh and Susie Cranston; In the Land of the Jaguar: South America and Its People by Gena K. Gorrell; Slow Flowers by Debra Prinzing; Vegetable Literacy by Deborah Madison; Visions of Earth: National Geographic Photographs of Beauty.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS** – Agenda items include: Approval of January 27, 2014 Board Minutes, update on JMRL’s Five-Year Plan, status report on JMRL’s FY 2015 Proposed Budget, a review of out-of-area use statistics, Board approval of the Displays of Original Art Policy (Section 4.52), and a Policy Committee Meeting directly following February’s Board meeting. The Monday, February 24, 2014 Board meeting is scheduled for 1:00 p.m. in Central Library’s 3rd Floor McIntire Room (201 East Market Street, Charlottesville, VA).

**PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT** – Trustee Ms. Willenborg made a motion for adjournment and Vice President Ms. Rosenthal seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved and the Board meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

Brian LaFontaine, President

(BLJH:dlg)