The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library’s (JMRL) Board of Trustees was held on Monday, July 28, 2014, at 1:00 p.m. in the Central Library’s McIntire Room (201 E. Market St., 3rd Fl, Charlottesville, VA), President LaFontaine being in the chair. As there was not a quorum present, no votes could be taken. Accordingly, the June 23, 2014 Minutes were not presented for approval. A vote for their approval will be held next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Stephen Walls Mathis sent an email a summary of which is: The Summer Reading Program of the Greene County Teen Advisory Board has been very busy. There was a “Blinking Bling” workshop incorporating LEDs into bracelets, and a Theater Games program. The latter was so well liked that the teens asked for a return. In August there will be a duct tape workshop to create back-to-school accessories. In October there will be another murder mystery with the County Sheriff invited to “arrest” the guilty party. In December there will be a “Hack the Holiday Card” workshop to learn HTML, CSS, and JavaScript. Also, the teen book club, Bibliophiles, has been actively reading.

Earlier in the day President LaFontaine and Trustees Grant and Turner toured the new Northside Library. It is a “big open space,” yet “impressive.” It is scheduled to open in February 2015.

ACTUARIAL REPORT ON CITY/JMRL PENSION BENEFITS

Director Halliday introduced Bill Dowd, the Charlottesville City Actuary, who explained to the Trustees the reasons for the increase in JMRL contribution rates to Pension and OPEB (Health and Life Insurance) benefits. In short, the City had used an inaccurately low number of JMRL retirees for calculating retirement rates. Correcting that error caused a significant increase in the JMRL contribution rate. Presuming there are no other “surprises” the rates are projected to decrease over the next 5 years. Trustee Grant expressed the Library Board’s concern that the increased rate was not reported to JMRL until May, six months after the City learned of the rate increase. Director Beck responded that to the best of his knowledge the information had been sent (that there had been no changes in the budget process), regardless, he expressed his regrets and assured the Board that it would not happen again. It was agreed that it would be in the interest of JMRL for a JMRL representative to attend the fall meeting at which Mr. Dowd will present his annual report. Mr. Dowd, Director Beck, and Ms. Butler were thanked for their attendance and left.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Policy Committee reviewed the Bookmobile and the Emergency Closing Policies. Director Halliday will report on both at the next Board meeting.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT

- Director Halliday handed out a draft of the FY2015 Library Board and Budget Schedule. As everybody present agreed that it looked fine, Director Halliday was charged with emailing copies to the absent Trustees.

- The Out of Area Fees collected in the first 6 months of 2013 and in FY2014 were not only not as high as hoped by JMRL’s localities, but decreased.

- Crozet Library shows an average monthly circulation increase of 70-80% over previous years. Since opening, they’ve received over 112,000 visitors. Computer use is up 209%. They book, on average, 43 meetings per month, and have 1,800 new patrons. Their new, extra hours go into effect in September.

- Gordon Avenue Library will have their HVAC replaced in April. This will give Friends of the Library time for their spring sale and to dense pack any remaining materials. The hope is that April’s weather will be mild enough to not need the HVAC which should take at least a month to install.

- “Paws to Read” the Summer Reading Program is going well. A program with dogs was organized by Leigh Mantle of Northside Library and sponsored by the Charlottesville SPCA. The program encouraged children to read to therapy dogs.

- JMRL was one of three libraries to receive a “Reading is Grand” grant from the Black Caucus of the American Library Association. The grant, applied for by Tiffany Duck, was awarded at the ALA conference in Las Vegas.

- In-Service Day will be November 11th. It was hoped that it would be held at the new Northside Library, but as the space will not be ready, and after pricing various venues, it will be held at Boar’s Head.

- The new Food, Drink & Cellphone Policy has been in effect since July 1st. Other than Gordon Avenue reporting a slight increase in trash (resulting in a new trashcan), there have been no reported incidents. In fact, there has been a decrease in reported cellphone incidents since the implementation of the new policy.

DEMONSTRATION OF TUMBLEBOOKS DATABASE
Erica Younglove introduced the Trustees to the Tumblebooks Database. Geared primarily for children (K-6), it is an online resource offering, among other things, animated audio books in a variety of languages.

FUTURE ADGENDA ITEMS
Trustee Grant proposed having more meetings away from Central. Trustee Rosenthal mentioned the self evaluation occurring in August, and revisiting the FY2015 Board and Budget Schedule and the results of the Policy Committee meeting.

PROPOSED ADJOURNMENT
As there was no quorum, President LaFontaine declared the meeting over. The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Brian LaFontaine, President