MINUTES OF THE MAY 18, 2015 MEETING
OF THE LIBRARY’S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Brian LaFontaine (Albemarle)  
Gary Grant (Albemarle)  
Stephen Walls Mathis (Greene)  
Carla Mullen (Charlottesville)  
Vice President Mary Coy (Nelson)  
Jane B. Kulow (Albemarle)  
Peter McIntosh (Albemarle)  
Tamyra Turner (Charlottesville)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Faye Rosenthal (Louisa)

OTHERS PRESENT

John Halliday, Library Director  
Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director  
Ginny Reese, Staff Recorder/Greene Manager  
Kobby Hoffman, Charlottesville NOW  
Michael Zakin, Albemarle Co. resident  
Carol Chandross, Albemarle Co. resident  
Mike Powers, Albemarle Co. resident  
Shawn Hirabayashi, HR Specialist  
William Lyons, Business Manager  
Kathleen Burns, Scottsville Manager  
Judy Marie Johnson, Charlottesville resident  
Toby Zakin, Albemarle Co. resident  
Zanne Macdonald, Charlottesville resident  
Erica Younglove, Reference Librarian

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library’s (JMRL) Board of Trustees was held on Monday, May 18, 2015, at 1:02 p.m. in the meeting room of the Northside Library (705 West Rio Road, Charlottesville, VA), President LaFontaine being in the chair. Trustee McIntosh made a motion for the approval of the April 27, 2015 Minutes and Trustee Mathis seconded. The April 27, 2015 Minutes were approved as presented without opposition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

President LaFontaine read JMRL Policy: Section 1.261 (“Policy on Public Comments at Library Board Meetings”). The following comments were all in regard to the April display in Central Library, “Your Body Your Choice,” organized by the Charlottesville chapter of the National Organization for Women. Zanne Macdonald stated that she found the display educational and in tune with what she would expect of a public library. Kobby Hoffman thanked the Board their dedication and stated that NOW’s intention was to offer something educational that presented all options from birth control through delivery and that an option’s difficulty did not preclude it. Mike Powers found the display advocated a specific position and that the title itself was political. He requested that the Board immediately answer the question of whether or not it is the official position of JMRL as a whole that the display fell within its policy guidelines. Toby Zakin found that the display was not political, that it simply showed choice, and that choice is the law of the land. Judy Marie Johnson pointed out that the personal is political and politics is personal. She described elements of the display that dealt with different age groups, genders, and sexualities. President LaFontaine thanked everybody for their comments then read a personal statement in which, among other things, he advocated patience and respect for the Board’s process.

SISTER CITY WINNEBA REPORT

Trustee Kulow and Erica Younglove summarized JMRL’s participation in the Charlottesville delegation’s visit to its sister city in Ghana. The visit, April 27 through May 8, included 12 official meetings over eight days. They made special mention of the $1,000 that the JMRL teen advisory board raised, supported by the Friends of the Library, which was used for an after school program to develop literacy.

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT

Trustee Mullen distributed minutes from the last Policy Committee meeting and stated that the display policy (Section 4.51) was being reviewed. Further discussion would occur after Director Halliday presented his report at the next Board meeting.
ADOPTION OF EMPLOYMENT REFERENCES POLICY
Trustee Mullen made a motion for the Board to accept JMRL Policy: Section 2.44 (“Employment References”) and its accompanying form, JMRL Form: Section 2.44 (“Authorization for Release of Personnel Records & Information Consent Form”). Trustee Kulow seconded the motion. After discussion the motion was approved without opposition.

DISCUSSION OF FY2016 LIBRARY BUDGET
Director Halliday distributed two budget sheets. Though the numbers presented are not yet official, they are probable. Every locality other than Louisa has a budget increase for JMRL. Louisa’s will stay level. As a result the following will be possible: 1) implementation of the 2nd year of the 3-year pay plan, 2) increases in medical and retirement, 3) 10 additional weekly technical support hours, 4) 4 additional weekly hours at Greene, 5) additional substitute hours for Children’s (at Central), and 6) 4 additional weekly hours at Scottsville. Louisa’s Sunday hours will likely be cut.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
Trustee Mullen stated that part of the committee’s intent was to have leadership come from different localities. That, combined with individual’s time constraints, resulted in the committee’s recommendation that President LaFontaine serve one more year and that Trustee Mathis serve as the Vice President for a two year term. A vote will be taken at the next Board meeting.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S REPORT
- Director Halliday introduced Kathleen Burns, manager of Scottsville branch. She gave a report on a survey she is conducting with homeschoolers. She is trying to discover how JMRL might better serve this group as there has been a 75% increase in homeschooling nationwide since 1999. The survey has been online for a week and a half and she will keep it up a few more weeks. So far there have been 130 responses.
- Director Halliday distributed copies of the summer edition of “Beyond the Books.” It is available online. A Spanish edition will come out soon.
- The Board was reminded that they should not delete any emails regarding JMRL business for at least three years. Also, they should not respond to JMRL emails from their personal accounts. At a minimum, they should cc their JMRL address.
- Northside is still working on its “punch list.” Among the things needing to be finished is the vending machine area. Director Halliday passed out the results of a patron survey. The most popular requests are hot chocolate and skittles. Director Halliday will research vending options.
- Trustee Mathis confirmed the steps that were being taken to deal with the display issue and reiterated that the Board must be deliberate.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR’S ANNUAL EVALUATION (CLOSED SESSION)
Trustee Mathis made a motion that the Board go into a closed session in order to do the Library Director’s evaluation. Vice President Coy seconded. The motion passed with no opposition.

OPEN SESSION
President LaFontaine read the Certification of Closed Meeting Resolution and polled the Board members individually. The Resolution received no opposition. President LaFontaine said the Library Board appreciates and supports the Library Director’s performance and he is eligible for the same percentage pay increase as most other library staff.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS
Finalize the Budget. Election of Officers. Schedule the Board meetings for next year. Library Director’s report on Display Policy issues.

ADJOURNMENT
The meeting adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

Brian LaFontaine, President

(BL:JH:shb)