Minutes

The Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees held its annual joint meeting with the Foundation Board and Friends of the Library on December 11, 2018, in the Presidential boardroom of the Tribe Library at Christopher Newport University.


Absent: X. Draper, T. Hammond, E. Young, M. Clyburn-Washington, T. Travis,

The meeting was called to order at 6:18 pm. The meeting did meet quorum.

Welcome and Introductions
S. Antoine, Director of Libraries asked members to stand and introduce themselves. She then updated the boards on FY20 budget, explaining the city manager’s new shared network process, with the Library’s goal of improving poverty and partnering with Newport News Public Schools. No budget cuts are anticipated for FY20. S. Antoine reviewed Library Chapters for December. Highlights included the holiday window decorating contest in City Center and the Grissom library survey.

NNPL Long-Term Strategies
S. Antoine gave a presentation to provide the Library’s strategic priorities for 2018-2021. Goals for each of the areas: Community Impact, Facilities, Technology, and Staff Investment were presented. The city’s 5-year CIP plan was passed around the room. The city’s competing priorities and constrained resources were emphasized.

Discussion – How can the Boards support the Library’s strategies?
T. Wright, Chairman of the Board of Trustees stated that the Trustees must continue to provide guidance for new concepts and suggest ideas being implemented at other library
systems, while asking, can these things be done at Newport News Public Library?

J. Richter, President of the Foundation, shared how the Foundation originated and how they are working toward becoming more specific regarding their purpose. The Board recently implemented a new Memo of Understanding and is in the process of determining how they can fulfill support of the Library's strategic plan and specific projects.

A. Brown, President of the Friends of the Library shared how the Friends support Library programs such as Summer Reading, volunteer reception, and a variety of adult programming. They provide approximately $30,000 in support each year and also give scholarships to NNPL staff to finish their library education. The Friends will work with Newport News Public Schools with the goal of providing free books for each school. This year they raised $25,000. Funds are mostly raised from proceeds of sales from their two bookstores and online book store. Question was asked regarding how to get involved with the Friends. They are linked through the Library's website and their web address is friendsoftheneprintneourpubliclibrary.org.

Floor was opened up for comments. A suggestion was made to add a grant writer to Library staff, as there used to be one years ago. Question was asked, how long has the Grissom project been on the table. It's been at least since the 2007 study, but possibly longer. Suggestion was made to find a use for extra Friends books, such as repurposing into craft projects at branches. Discussion was had regarding outreach vehicle/bookmobile and the cost to staff and supply and what type of vehicle should it be.

The next scheduled meeting of the Newport News Public Library Board of Trustees will be on January 8, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at Pearl Bailey library. The next scheduled meeting of the Newport News Library Board System Foundation will be January 15, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Library Admin office.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm.
Respectfully Submitted,

Sonia Alcántara-Antoine, Director
Secretary, ex-officio