

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Meeting
May Memorial Public Library

Tuesday, March 12, 2019
12:30 pm

Minutes

Present: Courtney Doi, Emily Conner, Logan Savits, Hiroko Solari, Christine Quigley

Staff Present: Terri Lamm

Staff Representing County: Steve Carter

Absent: Robin Moser, Arnetta Girardeau, Dodie Boone, Susana Goldman

Guest Present: no guests present

The meeting was called to order at 12:32 pm by Courtney Doi.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment.

INTRODUCTIONS:

- Steve Carter is the new representative from the County Commissioners. Everyone introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Both the minutes of 08/21/18 and 11/13/18 meetings were approved. Logan Savits made a motion and Emily Conner seconded the motion.

REPORT: Terri Lamm

- During the search for a Library Director our committee initially interviewed four possible candidates. After those interviews only one was chosen to participate in a second round of interviews. Thank you to Courtney Doi for participating in the presentation portion of the second round of interviews, which resulted in the conclusion that the candidate was just too inexperienced to succeed as a Library Director for our system.
 - The County will be reposting the position sometime in the next few months.
- The Library Budget has been submitted to the County Manager's Office and we're waiting for further information on possible cuts that may need to be made.
 - Susana submitted a new request for FY2019-2020: a part-time staff member for the North Park Library. Alexis Vivian is the branch manager for North Park. She works 4 nights a week. NP hours are 12:00pm – 8:00pm Monday through Thursday. The branch is closed from 3 – 4:00pm for Alexis to take lunch. This is a prime time for children to use the library when they get home from school. Since Alexis is busy helping patrons for most of the open hours at North Park, she doesn't have the time to plan for programs and do any administrative duties.
 - The public hearing for the County Budget will most likely be the May 20th meeting.
- Bookmobile: We began moving forward with this project in January.
 - We hired a consultant to rewrite our RFB to meet our revised vehicle needs. With his assistance we will have a cohesive RFB that will allow for a competitive bidding process. In addition, we were made to understand that a new timeline had become necessary as there is currently a high demand for specialty vehicle vendors. Expected vehicle delivery in an 11 to 14-month time frame made it impossible to meet the deadlines with the 2018-2019 LSTA Grant cycle. This

means that we were forced to forfeit the \$100,000 LSTA Grant funds for this fiscal year and needed to re-apply for the grant for the FY 2019-2020. The application was submitted during the last week of February.

- In the meantime, we will continue with our RFB finalization and once our consultant completes the vehicle specifics within the RFB we will get it approved by the necessary county departments and the Alamance County Commissioners. With all of this in place, if awarded the grant a second time (which is highly likely although not a guarantee) we will be ready to move forward with the selection of a vendor as soon as the grant award allows. If, at that time, the specialty vendors still have an eleven to fourteen month waiting period we will still be within the grant cycle period and not be at risk of forfeiture a second time.
- Proposed PM Goals for FY 2019-2020. A hand-out was given to the Board.
- We're adding Clover Garden School to our ACPL Connect program.
- Since we have changed to Daylight Savings Time, the hours of the Mobile Café have changed.
- We have added more partners to the ZOOM Pass Program in the past few months. Some of which are Alamance Children's Theatre, Gallery Players, Red Oak Brewery Tour.
- We do still have one Library Board vacancy. It is a County spot. We hope to have at least one person shadow the next meeting (in June). We will post the vacancy on the County's website and our social media.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- How did talking up the library to 10 people in the community go? Emily said she had forgotten the assignment. However, she had been talking to many people about the library and what we offer. Courtney reminded everyone that if they have feedback from people they talk to, send it to Susana and Terri. That way the Board can give the library recommendations as needed.
- Logan said she has been talking to her students about ZOOM passes.
- Christine said she and her co-workers have been talking up NC Kids at, not only her school, but other schools in the system.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Brainstorm a minimum of two areas where the Committee can be more involved with the library, i.e. staff appreciation. Courtney said that we have talked in the past about the Board becoming more of an advisory board instead of just getting updates of what the library is doing. The Board will begin having their own projects to support the library needs. Courtney asked if the library needed ideas for programs or did we have more than we can execute. Terri said the library will never turn down ideas. But, staffing issues are what holds us back from doing some things. We don't want to burn out our existing staff.
- **Sign up to speak to the County Commissioners** – Courtney said she spoke to the Commissioners last year during budget time and it was not as bad as people may think. She encouraged everyone to come to one of the meetings. Courtney said it would be good for someone to speak about the North Park library to help get the part-time staff member. She said the members could take a moment or two to tell how the library has impacted them or their families. Courtney said the goal of the Board is to keep the library in the forefront of the Commissioners. Commissioner Steve Carter seconded that. She made a list of all the upcoming Commissioner meetings and a link as to how to sign up to speak. She said the sooner the better in talking about budget concerns to the Commissioners. She asked Commissioner Carter if he had any suggestions as to how to say things in the public comment section. Commissioner Carter suggested that if anyone was going to speak on items that would cost money, be prepared with how much it will cost and have ideas on where the money will come from and who would be using the proposed items. He said it puts a face and a perspective for the citizens with the need. Commissioner Carter said to think about the idea and how it will benefit the library and the citizens of Alamance County. He said this will be a bad budget year. The citizens voted for \$190 million in bonds and did not vote for a way to pay for it. Steve said this will probably be on the 2020 ballot again because people will find out that property tax

is going up \$.08 – \$.10 for just the bonds and immediate needs for the departments. Because of this, he feels the citizens will realize that increasing sales tax is a good idea. 60% of the sales tax revenue comes from outside of Alamance County. Commissioner Carter said there is one item being discussed. We can do a local option sales tax which takes the 3 local representatives, Steve Ross and Dennis Riddel in the House and Rick Gunn in the Senate proposing this issue. Commissioner Carter said this proposal would be for ½% sales tax for Alamance County. This would generate \$9 million per year in income. Courtney suggested that if there is a date that one of the Board members know they are going to attend and speak, let everyone know so Courtney can scatter out the remaining dates to cover each meeting. That way, everyone doesn't go the same day. Commissioner Carter said 3 people per issue can sign up for each meeting. He said the library has the support of, pretty much, all the Commissioners.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

June 11 at 6:30pm

September 10 at 12:30pm

December 3 at 6:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 1:08 pm