SPECIAL PRESENTATION: Star Volunteer Awards presented by Delegate Mark Sickles began at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Chair Karrie Delaney called the meeting to order at 8:01 p.m.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. Public Comment: Deb Smith-Cohen, President, Fairfax County Public Library Employees Association (attached)
B. Public Comment: Vera Finberg (attached)

II. MINUTES:

Mr. Jasper moved to approve the March minutes, and Mr. Fegan seconded it. A friendly amendment was suggested by Ms. Millhouser for some punctuation errors. The motion to approve the amended minutes passed unanimously.

III. CHAIRS REPORT:

Chair Delaney pointed out the shirts the Library Board trustees were wearing for National Library Week. She thanked the Library Foundation for providing the shirts for this year’s celebration from April 9 to April 15, 2017.

Chair Delaney said it was a privilege to go to the Board of Supervisors meeting on April 4, 2017, when the board made the proclamation to recognize National Library Week in Fairfax County. She was honored to speak, highlighting the amazing work that the library does. It’s great to see how supportive the Board of Supervisors is towards the library and the service it offers.

On April 5, 2017, Chair Delaney spoke at one of the Board of Supervisor public budget hearings, and she again had the opportunity to highlight the valuable work the library does across all spectrums of the community, and the significance for funding to be sustained to continue to offer the services it provides.

IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

A. Library Foundation: Will Jasper – The Foundation will be holding a Book Fair at the Fair Lakes Barnes and Noble on April 15, 2017, from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m., of which a portion of the proceeds will go to the Library Foundation. There will be an online code available as well for the week after the Book Fair. The deadline for submission for graduate and undergraduate scholarships for staff and volunteers is April 15, 2017. The Library Jubilee will be October 21, 2017 at Pohick.

B. Finance Committee: Miriam Smolen – No report.

C. Ad Hoc Planning Committee: Charles Fegan – Progress has been made with Strategic Planning, as staff has begun to reach out to various liaison groups. The next Planning Committee Meeting will be April 28, 2017, at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, at 2:00 p.m.
D. Public Relations Committee: Fran Millhouser – Ms. Millhouser spoke at the Board of Supervisors public budget hearing about the importance of the collection in her community. She stressed the effectiveness of using personal stories to show how the library affects the members of the community.

E. Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Gary Russell – The committee met on Monday, April 10, 2017, to discuss updates to various policies. There are two policies for consideration tonight and there will be two more for the May meeting.

F. Ad Hoc MOU: Miriam Smolen – She has had further discussions with the County Attorney’s Office, finalizing the issues and collectively proposing some solutions to move the MOU process forward. At the May meeting there will be a presentation on high-level areas for the MOU.

V. DIRECTORS REPORT: Jessica Hudson

A. April is Volunteer Month and the library would like to recognize the work that the Board does for the library. Director Hudson handed out a thank you card and a bookmark to each Trustee, thanking them for their service.

B. The Library of Virginia has supplied 32 “nature backpacks” via a partnership with the Virginia State Park to the libraries across the Commonwealth. They will be available to check out from the library soon. There are many items included in the backpack including nature guides, constellation maps, bug catchers, and more to help explore State Parks. The bag also includes a free admission and parking pass to get into any State Park in Virginia.

C. Thursday April 20, 2017, at Pohick Regional Library, Author Jason Wright will present a book talk.

D. In February the library embarked on a “Love your Library” campaign. Two bulletin boards with “love notes” the library received were on display at the meeting.

E. The City of Fairfax and Sherwood Library are in the process of setting up “memory maker” spaces. These spaces will be available for customers to convert older media such as floppy discs into digital files.

F. Last summer the Library participated in the No Kid Hungry Program, and the Library will continue this summer. Additionally, the Richard Byrd Library will be a food site.

G. In the current proposed federal budget, the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) is slated for complete defunding. The library doesn’t receive any money directly from IMLS, but they provide funds to the Library of Virginia for services offered at libraries throughout Virginia. If the defunding occurs these services would stop.

H. Lines of Business Phase II - Consistent Hours (handout provided in the April packet). Director Hudson provided information on all four of the options detailed in the Trustee’s packets. This discussion is based on a request from the Board of Supervisors, from public input in the Lines of Business (LOBs) public survey.

Ms. Delaney said the Board is not supportive of any plan that would reduce hours or services to the community, and that there needs to be discussion that over time and budget cycles, the Library will work towards reaching consistent hours. Mr. Fegan agreed the Board should never present anything with reductions. Ms. Millhouser stated that what the Board is discussing would be in line with the suggestions from the public survey. Ms. Delaney asked if the library could add “tiered steps” towards full consistency, potentially staggering the costs for getting all locations to Regional hours.
VI. CONSIDERATION ITEMS

A. Update to Policy R Variable Circulation Dates

RECOMMENDATION: Library Administration recommends updating Policy R to reflect appropriate circulation practices.

BACKGROUND: The ad hoc Policy Committee of the Library Board of Trustees met on March 3, 2017 to discuss a number of policy updates. One policy brought forward by the committee for update is Policy R, regarding variable circulation dates. The policy requires updates to align with circulation periods and patterns. The current version of the policy and the recommended updated version of the policy are included in the attachment.

B. Update to Policy F Regarding Organization of Library Facilities

RECOMMENDATION: Library Administration recommends updating Policy F to reflect current terminology and designation regarding branch libraries.

BACKGROUND: The ad hoc Policy Committee of the Library Board of Trustees met on March 3, 2017 to discuss a number of policy updates. One policy brought forward by the committee for update is Policy F, regarding organization of libraries. The current iteration of the policy is not reflective of current terminology or defining factors between Regional and Community libraries. The current version of the policy and the recommended updated version of the policy are included in the attachment.

VII. ACTION ITEMS: None.

VII. ROUNDTABLE:

Ms. Levy - Congratulations to Sondy Eklund, who was elected to the 2019 American Library Association Newberry Award Selection Committee. Thank you to the Library Foundation for the beautiful National Library week shirts.

Mr. Choi - He thanked Mr. Fegan who attended an event on his behalf.

Ms. Dando - She shared her personal appreciation for the volunteers recognized earlier in the meeting. Libraries serve their communities and a big part of that is the connection citizens have with their library.

Mr. Jasper – He added his personal thank you to volunteers who continue to volunteer day after day, week after week. He can’t imagine achieving 5,000 hours of time donated to community service.

Mr. Fegan - He echoed the remarks made towards volunteers. He also gave a shout out to the genealogy services the library offers.

Mr. Donovan - He always looks forward to the volunteer awards ceremony and is consistently impressed with quality and quantity of volunteers who step forward.

Ms. Smolen - She echoed all the things said about volunteers and that the library couldn’t survive without them.
Ms. Millhouser - She was a guest at the George Mason Library Volunteer Appreciation Lunch and commended the volunteers recognized. The lunch took place during a bad storm and she praised the staff for handling the situation and keeping the library going through the severe weather.

She also announced that Ms. Janega had a poem published in the Sunday Washington Post Magazine on April 8, 2017.

Mr. Russell - Jessica was published last month and now Ms. Janega, it’s a good way to get the word of the library out.

Ms. Janega – She thanked all volunteers in the library system. She attended a program on News gathering and wanted to point out how on top of programming the library is.

Ms. Delaney – She was at Centreville Library for their Volunteer Luncheon, and during the lunch the library had to shelter in place due to a tornado. Staff member Karen Jones pulled together books to have an impromptu story time to keep the kids entertained. Staff worked extremely efficiently, and the library staff looked out for the full needs of the customers. This shows the excellent training they have received on emergency situations.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Fegan and seconded by Mr. Donovan.

Chair Delaney adjourned the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

Members Present
Yearn Hong Choi
Priscille Dando
Karrie Delaney
Michael Donovan
Charles Fegan
Sheila Janega
Will Jasper
Suzanne Levy
Fran Millhouser
Gary Russell
Miriam Smolen

Members Absent
Darren Ewing

Respectfully Submitted:
Jessica Hudson
Library Director

Approved:
Karrie Delaney, Chairman
FCPL, Board of Trustees
Deb Smith-Cohen  
Fairfax County Public Library Employee Association President  
Statement to Library Board of Trustees  
April 12, 2017

There will be a murder at Patrick Henry Library soon. It will be in a novel so no one will die, but one of the panelists at a recent mystery writers’ program hinted that he is weaving our library into his latest novel as a crime scene. Needless to say, we’re thrilled – and look forward to being thrilled when the book comes out. This is a small example of community engagement and transformation, but a fun one to share.

Looking through the April events at various branches provides evidence of FCPL’s impact in amazingly diverse detail. There are Art Programs, Book Clubs, Chess Clubs, Coding for Kids, Coloring Programs, English Learning, Escape Rooms, Games, Gardening, Job Help, Knitting, LEGO Play, Local Authors, Local History, Magic Shows, Movies, Music, Poetry Slams, Political Discussions, Preschool Storytimes, Puppets, Read to a Dog, Tech Help, Tech Toys, Yoga, and more.

Beyond the sheer number and range of programs, there is the staff effort to create, promote, and run those programs. This includes planning staff-presented content, working with volunteer and paid presenters, leveraging local media effectively, designing and distributing flyers, handling registration, doing room and AV set-ups, confirming supplies, getting and using public feedback, traveling to offsite events, and arranging payment, if necessary.

Programming is, of course, only one dimension of our engagement in the community, but during National Library Week, it is a fitting symbol of our impact.

Another transformational activity is the mutual benefit of our volunteer program. As we hear of the many hours contributed by those recognized today, it is important to appreciate not only the way that our volunteers enhance our daily operations, but the way engagement in the library adds value to their lives. It provides Friends, volunteer tutors, crafters, and other presenters a chance to share skills and passions in their community. It provides socialization and community connection for those helping with various circulation tasks. As they assist us, they endorse us in the eyes of neighbors using our branches. Teen volunteers learn accountability, public service skills, how to follow instructions. They take pride in seeing the impact of their efforts.

Everyone gets a glimpse at how branch staff spend their time, the complexity of our circulation tasks, and the variety of expectations patrons bring to us. Volunteers not only stretch library effectiveness, they are our most effective advocates in branch communities, and contribute critically to our transformational reach and impact.

On behalf of staff in every branch, we add our thanks to the recognition offered all the volunteers here today.
My name is Vera Finberg and I a resident of the Braddock District, who uses both Kings Park and City of Fairfax Branches. I would like to speak about the "Options for Creating Consistent Hours".

One of the big frustrations of users of community libraries is that most residents do not remember which days the library opens early or late and when it closes early or stays open late. It was been a source of frustration for my friends, who primary use Kings Park Library. They are looking for consistent hours at their branch.

In proposing the various options, I do not see the request for consistent hours at communities fully addressed. Yes, Sunday hours at all libraries would be ideal, but should be a goal for when the budget is available. Having only regional libraries open 1-5, is a budgetary compromise and should be sold to the public as one.

However, one option not addressed is the following schedule for all libraries for days other than Sunday. It provides a consistent schedule for all libraries other than on Sunday.

Monday 10-9
Tuesday 10-9
Wednesday 10-9
Thursday 10-9
Friday 10-6 (or possibly 10-5)
Saturday 10-5

Unfortunately, no background materials are included with the proposal, so it is impossible to judge what times and days are most heavily used. But I have grave concerns about option 3, which does not have consistent closing hours, but rather, Monday and Wednesday the libraries close at 9 pm and Tuesday and Thursday they close at 6PM. Are their usage statistics that support the closing early on Tuesday evenings Do Tuesdays really have far less evening patrons than Wednesdays? This is not what citizens call consistent hours. It may be consistent from branch to branch, but not for the individual branch that a patron uses. It does not further the argument for consistent hours.

The above option as suggested also allows for greater opportunities for programming and for maximum usage of the meeting rooms by community groups - who often find that variable hours make scheduling meetings very difficult. Does the library survey indicate that our citizens want accessibility to our meeting rooms? Is it a service that brings folks to the library?

Thank you for your time.

Vera Finberg