Library Board of Trustees Finance Committee Meeting
February 17, 2017 10:00 AM    Government Center, Room 7

In attendance
Miriam Smolen, Chair
Yearn Hong Choi
Darren Ewing

Minutes
Committee Chair Smolen opened the meeting at 10:02 AM. All committee members were present and Library Director Hudson was in attendance.

Director Hudson presented a review of the County’s Advertised budget, which was released on February 14, 2017. Specific areas of presentation and discussion included: the budget is balanced at the current (1.13) tax rate, there is an increase in funding to Fairfax County Public Schools of approximately $50 million, the Board of Supervisors has about $2 million in funds still to allocate, there is no market rate adjustment included in the budget for staff but performance increases are included, and FY2019 will likely look similar.

Library-specific budget discussion included: public budget hearings are scheduled April 4-6 and Chair Delaney will be speaking on April 5th along with Fairfax Library Foundation Chair Brian Engler. $150,000 was removed from the Library’s budget from Technical Operations composed of one management staff and a small portion of collection development funds. The proposed cut to close the Sherwood Tech Center was not included in the Advertised Budget. The multiyear budget, FY2019 under “other priorities”, includes $250,000 to bolster the non-fiction collection. This line item has been included in past years as well but has not been able to be funded.

Some discussion from the committee about alternative funding sources, such as large locally based companies and what those types of funds could be used for. Further discussion about the Foundation and their interactions with and funding from large companies.

The committee discussed the reinstatement of the Library Board’s budget hearings. The group confirmed that they would like to reinstate the hearings to provide the community with a feedback opportunity. Director Hudson recommended moving the meeting from June to September, which is closer to budget development time. The committee accepted the recommendation.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 AM.