

ALEXANDRIA-MONROE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD
Meeting Minutes
August 13, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bob Rogers, Shelby Thomas, Pam Blake, Melissa Giles, LeeAnne Fisher, Suzi Remington, and Montie Manning.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dave Holder

CALL TO ORDER

President Bob Rogers called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting had been sent to each member prior to this meeting. Suzi Remington moved to accept the minutes as written; Pam Blake seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

The first item of old business was the 2016 Budget. Manning explained that he intends to go before the County Council to request a significant increase to the annual budget. Upon request by Shelby Thomas for an approximate percentage of increase he was requesting, Manning replied that an approximate 20% overall increase would be needed. To clarify, he explained what he views as a need to establish a Retirement Fund fund for the staff. This area would require a significant increase in budget if approved. He then went on to explain that there are several other areas that he anticipates will require funds to be allocated over the next fiscal year, including projects such as the sidewalk sinkhole issue as well as a wireless upgrade. These would be paid from the Rainy Day or the LIRF fund. There was more discussion among the Board members of areas that might require funds, with Manning fielding all questions that arose. While this issue did not require a vote by the Board, the overall direction of the discussion was that the Board members were very supportive of Manning's plan, and he was offered much encouragement and support going forward.

The second item of old business was the 2016 Revised Time line. Manning indicated that he will be going before the Madison County Council on September 28th at 5pm for the Public Hearing with the 2016 Budget. He will at this time be requesting the additional funding that was discussed among the Board members in the first item of Old Business. He will be prepared at this meeting to answer questions raised by any Council members regarding the additional funds being requested. The Adoption Hearing is set for October 13th at 6pm. Both meetings are to be held at the Madison County Government Center, Suite #510. The majority of the Board members present expressed interest in attending the Public Hearing to show the Library Board's support for Manning's new initiatives. It was then briefly discussed that Manning should draft a letter that the entire Board can sign backing his initiatives in order to show the support of any Board members that might be unable to attend the public hearing. After brief discussion, the consensus was to go forward in this manner.

NEW BUSINESS

The first item of new business was approving the Technology Plan for 2015-2018. Manning mentioned that this approval is required every 3 years, and that the only change from the previous plan is a small change to the Mission Statement. President Bob Rogers called for a motion to approve the Technology Plan for 2015-2018. LeeAnne Fisher moved to approve the Plan as proposed, Suzi Remington seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

The second item of new business was the Student Library Card Policy. Manning explained the change being made here is that students attending school in the Alexandria Monroe System would not be charged a fee for obtaining an Alexandria Monroe Library Card regardless of where the live. This has become an issue since School Choice went into effect. Melissa Giles made a motion that the new Student Library Card Policy be accepted as written, and LeeAnne Fisher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Manning mentioned a few highlights from the report, especially results from the Summer Reading Programs. While there was a significant increase in registration in the Adult Program, the increase in completed adult entries was negligible. There was some discussion as to why this might be, but the issue was not resolved. The children and teen registration and completions were down significantly. Manning indicated that the staff involved with these programs suggested that much of this issue might be due to the Balanced Calendar school year, and the Board seemed to agree that indeed could be the issue. So far, there is not a solution in place to turn these results around, but all involved are invested in coming up with new ideas for next year

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

The Board reviewed the report, with Manning mentioning that at this point our door count numbers will be skewed from 2014 due to the set up before and after the remodel. Manning mentioned that he believes Reference questions aren't necessarily down, but that several factors might come into play as to why the numbers are not properly reflected. He mentioned that since the remodel, the clickers are not positioned so that they are always in sight. Additionally, we have a mostly new staff post-remodel. Some discussion ensued about ways to encourage the staff to remember to click for reference questions, but no solution was agreed upon at this time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The claims sheet was distributed for approval. Melissa Giles moved to pay claims 324-370; Pam Blake seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Library closing at 3pm on August 21st for track set up, then closed through the Grand Prix weekend. Will reopen at regular time on Monday, August 24th. Book drops will be locked all weekend to prevent vandalism. The library will also be closed for Labor Day on Monday September 7th.

ADJOURNMENT

Melissa Giles moved to adjourn the meeting; LeeAnne Fisher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Next meeting is Thursday, September 10th @ 6:00pm at the library.

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Giles, Secretary