

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

**Meeting via Zoom
May Memorial Library**

**Tuesday, February 9, 2021
2:30 pm**

Minutes

Present: Emily Conner, Logan Savits, Kristen Whitlow, Courtney Doi, Dodie Boone, Jordan Dawson, Renee White

Staff Present: Susana Goldman, Terri Lamm

Staff Representing County: N/A

County Commissioner Representative: Craig Turner

Absent: Colleen Macklin, Paula Hendricks

The Zoom (virtual) meeting was called to order at 12:40 pm by Kristen Whitlow.

Introductions were made for the new County Commissioner/Library Board representative.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of 11.10.20 were approved. Craig Turner made the motion to approve and Dodie Boone seconded. Minutes were approved. All in favor.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- Susana reported that there are 2 members not in attendance today. One is Colleen Macklin who is celebrating her 70th birthday today. She has reserved the day for herself today. The other member is Paula Hendrick.
- Much of Susana's report is an update on the library projects. It is budget-planning season for the County. She has been getting the library's budget finalized in order to present it to the County. There are a couple of points she has asked the Board's permission for previously. One is the request to go fine-free. The other is a request to implement a career ladder for library staff. If the career ladder is approved by the Commissioners, staff would be able to take professional development pertaining to their job and job performance and be eligible for a salary increase. Presenting to the Commissioners won't happen until late April or early May. Public hearing will happen in late May or early June. At that time, Susana will email the Library Board and ask if they are willing to speak at the Commissioners' budget meeting and advocate for the library.
- A grant from the State Library will be submitted. The library has permission from the County Commissioners to apply for this grant. The grant is an LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act). This is federal money filtered through the State. This is to implement a remote locker system at Graham Public Library. We are currently writing the grant. It is due in March. If we are awarded the grant, we would be able to implement a low to no contact holds pick-up. This system would be located outside the library and accessed 24/7. Patrons can use their library card to pick up their materials' holds. Staff load it with the patron's holds. When ready, the patron would come, scan their card on the screen and the locker would open and allow patrons to get their materials. The materials would already be checked out to the patrons. We would start with Graham library since they already have a significant number of hold pick-up requests. This library is also centrally located and is a high-traffic area. We will then see how the community responds to this service before we proceed with other locations. Susana said this was actually a project we were working on pre-Covid. We have a lot of patrons who are unable to pick up their materials, even when the libraries are fully open with our regular schedule.
- There is a great concern that the mobile café van will not last much longer. It is a 2003 vehicle. We have not gotten, nor asked for, permission to purchase another vehicle. If /when we need to purchase

a new vehicle, it would have to be through a grant. Our current budget does not allow for this purchase. We will be trying to see what grants are out there for the purchase of a new van. Susana explained to Mr. Turner about our old courier van-turned mobile café and what purpose it serves in the County. This van would then be a dual-purpose vehicle. It would not only be a mobile café with wifi for the public, it would also serve as a “lobby stop.” This means, if we want to partner with a school or care facility and they don’t have the capability for us to get the mobile library into their parking lot, we would bring this van in, loaded with rolling book carts. These carts would then be rolled into their lobbies so patrons could browse some materials.

- Update on mobile library: for the past 4 years, we have been working towards getting a mobile library. It should have been delivered last June. But, because of Covid, it was delayed. Currently, the mobile library is being painted and the graphics wrap is being put on. The hope is that we should take possession of it in the next few weeks. Once we get it, we will have to stock it. Mobile library stops are being finalized. Emily asked if we had to put in the budget to hire someone. Susana explained that this had already been taken care of. The position was approved by the County Commissioners 2 years ago. She froze the mobile cafe position in order to hire a full-time mobile library person. This person is the driver of the mobile café now. Once the mobile library is here, the staff member will transfer over to the mobile library. Mr. Turner asked if the mobile library is already paid for and if so, where did the money come from. Susana explained that it is 100% funded. All the money for the vehicle came from grants, endowments, sponsorships, trusts and donations. There is a sponsor section on the back of the vehicle to list them. All funds except for staffing came from these monies.
- The library is constantly exploring new things. We rolled out 3 new services since Covid happened. From virtual programming to take and make kits...staff has been working hard adapting to these new services.
- Emily asked about Staff Development Day on February 5. Susana briefly went over what staff did and how it went. This was the first virtual Staff Development Day. We were very thankful to get a presenter for a virtual program. It pertained to diversity and inclusion in the library workplace with both staff and patrons. Each person brings their own experiences and history with them to each interaction.
- Mr. Turner asked how long the no-fine policy had been in effect. Susana explained that we are requesting to move to no-fines during this upcoming budget year. The Library Committee discussed Susana’s proposal at the last meeting and approved moving forward to ask permission from the County Commissioners to go fine-free. Susana explained what that would look like and how it would benefit all our patrons. During Covid, due to minimum hours, we have not been charging fines. Mr. Turner asked what the fines are. Books, audio, and dvds were \$.25 per day, per item. Lucky Day was \$1.00 per item, per day. He further asked if there was data on more items being returned when a library does not charge late fees. Susana said there is data on that issue. She put all that in her proposal. She will send it to Mr. Turner prior to all the County Commissioners getting it when she presents the library’s budget to them. Susana said, Nationally, libraries are moving to fine-free. In the past year, at least 6 libraries close to Alamance County have gone fine-free. The trend is that when a library goes to fine-free, many long-lost items are returned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- There was no new business.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

May 11, 2021 at 12:30pm

November 9, 2021 at 6:30pm

August 10, 2021 at 12:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm