

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Meeting via Zoom
May Memorial Library

Tuesday, May 11, 2021
12:30 pm

Minutes

Present: Emily Conner, Courtney Doi, Jordan Dawson, Colleen Macklin, Paula Hendricks,

Staff Present: Susana Goldman, Terri Lamm

Staff Representing County: N/A

County Commissioner Representative: Craig Turner

Guest: Shannon Witherow (*she is a possible replacement for an open position on the board*)

Absent: Kristen Whitlow, Logan Savits, Dodie Boone, Renee White

The Zoom (virtual) meeting was called to order at 12:30 pm by Susana Goldman. Kristen Whitlow was not present due to a death in the family. Colleen Macklin, as Vice-Chair, facilitated the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of 02.09.21 were approved with one change. Time was adjusted from 2:30pm to 12:30pm. Emily Conner made the motion to approve and Courtney Doi seconded. Minutes were approved. All in favor.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- The library has expanded our hours, as of April. We added Saturday hours from 10:00am – 2:00pm. In May, we began opening Monday through Friday, 10:00am – 6pm and keeping Saturday hours from 10:00am – 2:00pm. When Covid 19 hit, the County froze 6 of our open positions. Those positions won't be opened until the new fiscal year, July 1, 2021. Until those 6 frozen positions and a few other open positions are filled, we won't be able to move to being open our typical hours. Susana has put the frozen positions into our upcoming budget. If the County Commissioners approve opening those positions, we will staff them and be able to open fully. At this point, only May Memorial, Mebane and Graham are open 10am – 6pm, Monday through Friday. North Park is only open 12:00p – 4:00pm because the Community Center has not opened back.
- Since Martha Sink retired after 39 ½ years, her position was split into 2 positions. The Collection Development Librarian position has been filled. Susana is asking the County Commissioners for an information technology person that the library would share with IT. Susana and Deana have been filling this position, along with their normal duties. The County Manager presents the budget to the County Commissioners on May 17. On June 7, there is a public hearing where anyone can come in to voice their opinion on funding. The County Commissioners will vote on the budget on June 21.
- Susana has also requested for approval a career ladder for staff. This would allow staff to receive a 1 – 3% raise if they complete professional development that benefits the library.
- Last fall, Susana talked to the Library Board about going fine-free. It has been presented to the County Commissioners.
- Susana said the library would appreciate any of the board members going to the public meeting and sharing their comments regarding the library and what we do.
- Colleen asked if Martha's position was a professional MLIS position. Susana said it was. She created a Collection Development Librarian out of it. That position takes care of all the ordering of library materials for our libraries. The new IT position she is asking for would not be a library-specific position. But, it would have IT qualifications and certifications required. This is a dual library/IT position.
- Craig Turner said he could add some insight into the budget process. Bryan will present the proposed budget to the County Commissioners on Monday evening. The public hearing will be the

next County Commissioners meeting. There will be a request to make this a night meeting so more of the public are able to attend. The County Commissioners will have to vote on making that a night meeting. Mr. Turner spoke to Bryan yesterday about the budget process. At that time, Bryan was still working on it. His wants to unfreeze all positions that were frozen previously. Mr. Turner said he didn't know where Bryan was on the additional tech person. He said there is a good possibility of the library getting the frozen positions back. Mr. Turner also said thought there was a possibility of getting the new IT position. He said he understood how the library would need that position. At the last Commissioners meeting, when Susana talked about cancelling late fees, Mr. Turner said he didn't hear anyone oppose that idea. What he perceived was that everyone thought that would be a great way to get more people to use the library. Mr. Turner supports that idea. He hasn't spoken to Bryan about it because Mr. Turner said it doesn't seem controversial. Colleen was very hopeful that the library would get the IT position, as she saw it as integral for the library. She said she would be at the public hearing. Courtney said she would attend the public hearing, as well. There was discussion about what the hearing would look like. Would it be virtual or in-person. Mr. Turner said he understood it was going to be a hybrid. He and Susana described how that would look and where people would go to register to speaking at the public hearing. Mr. Turner said the Commissioners may vote on having it at another location, due to space issues. The link for the meeting will be published on the County's website. Susana said she would let everyone know how to attend the meeting.

- We still haven't received the mobile library. However, we are hoping to have it in-hand late May or early June. But, Susana can't guarantee those dates. When we get the vehicle, it will take about a month to stock it and verify the routes. Our hope is to have the vehicle in full circulation this summer.
- The mobile café has been pulled out of service for now. Our mobile café driver is our full-time mobile library driver. She has been training on library systems. She is doing some order and testing the routes.
- We applied for a grant to replace the mobile café vehicle. This would allow us to purchase a new vehicle and upfit the van for our needs. We won't know until July and August, if we got the grant.
- We applied for another grant to install remote lockers at Graham Library. This is from the State Library. This allows for an after-hours/no contact pick ups for their hold materials. Items are already checked out to the patrons. Patrons would open the locker using their library card. If we do get the grant and the lockers system goes well, we would be interested in partnering with area partners in the County for lockers to be installed. This would help remote communities.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Farewell to those whose term is ending. The members who are leaving the Library Board are Emily Conners, Renee White and Dodie Boone. Susana thanked them for their service to the Library Board. Paula Hendricks' term is ending. But, she would like to remain on the Library Board. That application will go to the County Commissioners to approve. Courtney asked if there were enough applicants for these soon-to-be vacant positions. Susana explained that she has a number of people interested in these seats.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

August 10, 2021 at 12:30pm

November 9, 2021 at 6:30pm

The meeting was adjourned at 1:03 pm. Motion made by Courtney Doi and seconded by Emily Conner.