

ALAMANCE COUNTY LIBRARY COMMITTEE

Meeting
May Memorial Public Library

Tuesday, May 16, 2017
2:00 pm

Minutes

Present: Jo Grimley, George Byrd, Amy High, Christine Quigley, Courtney Doi, Bob Byrd, MJ Wilkerson

Staff Present: Jason Rogers, Terri Lamm

Absent: Mike Cross, Hiroko Solari

The meeting was called to order at 2:04 pm by Jo Grimley.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jo asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 15, 2016 meeting minutes. There were none. She asked for a motion. George motioned and Courtney seconded. November minutes were approved. Jo then asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 2017. She said under, "Report of Director," the second bullet point should say, "Board members received a copy..." MJ said she would make that correction. Jo asked for a motion to accept those minutes. Christine made a motion and Amy seconded. February minutes were approved.

REPORT OF DIRECTOR:

- MJ shared that she was invited to go to Washington, DC for National Library Legislative Day and talk to different senators and congressmen about the importance of funding for IMLS (The Institute of Museum and Library Services) and LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act). LSTA is under the IMLS umbrella for funding. Students from UNC-G and young ambassadors were also on this trip. The White House has recommended these budgets be cut completely. This would have a serious impact on, not just our library, but libraries across the country. We are fortunate because we get local funding, but a lot of public libraries may not. We are in the process of writing a project grant for \$100,000 using LSTA funding to help purchase a book mobile.
- Alamance Reads – This year's title is *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle – A Year in Food*. We are partnering with Gibsonville to do some programs together. The first one will be at the Gibsonville Farmers' Market. Jessica Arnold, who runs the Gibsonville Public Library, has already designed a program with this Farmers' Market. Jason said this event will be the first weekend in June from 9am – 12pm. Our kick-off event will be at The Depot on June 24 from 1pm – 3pm. It will be picnic-style with games, local food and face-painting. We are partnering with Red Bud Farms to do a farm tour from 3pm – 5pm. Alamance Reads was started by The Friends, who had full responsibility of the program for several years. Eventually the libraries started sharing that responsibility with them. Alamance Reads used to be every 2 years. ACPL has now assumed full responsibility for the Alamance Reads program and it will be an annual event. The Friends give \$5,000 to fund the program. It will coincide with our Summer Reading Program so we will have our Children's summer reading as well as our Adult's summer reading in the form of the Alamance Reads event. Courtney Doi said the ACC Horticulture class would be a good connection for this Alamance Reads' book. Jo Grimley suggested MJ contact John Fuquay. He is the author of, *Musings of a Depression Era Southern Farm Boy*. She said he is retired now and has a cabin on their property in Alamance County. Jo said they come up here quite often. MJ said Sara Ingle has made a beautiful graphic for Summer Reading that we are using on all our brochures. She also said that April Lankford, from the Graham branch, has put together a brochure of eating and buying local. We are working with the Burlington Royals again this year for the children's Summer Reading Program.

We will also offer reading help classes in the branches. This year, we hope to be able to compare before and after reading scores of students that participate in the Summer Reading Program to see if the program has an impact. Names and demographics will not be necessary. We only want to see if the reading scores have increased or, at least, stayed the same. If they have dropped, we will re-evaluate how we do SRP for next summer.

- MJ talked about the budget process. She gave a hand-out to everyone and explained what was adopted for this current fiscal year, what MJ submitted in her initial budget request (minus the staffing requests), and what the County Manager sent back to her. The County Manager then asked her to cut another \$113,000 (3.8%) from the budget request. MJ had requested a full-time Library Assistant I to teach technology classes, several part-time Library Assistant I's for reference help and some re-classifications. All of those requests were cut. MJ explained that under "capital outlay," for most departments, this would be a new HVAC, a new roof, or some other large ticket item. However, for the library, materials such as books and AV and electronic resources fall under capital outlay per the auditors. This year, Bryan Hagood left it up to MJ to make the budgets where she feels she can. MJ explained that the last column in the spreadsheet is what she came up with implementing the 3.8% cut. MJ reported that we will have to take a hard look at the programs we are offering in the future. The current staff cannot sustain the number of programs without getting new staff in to help. In addition we will be looking at staffing and hours of operation in the upcoming year. In July, the Admin team has scheduled a morning long meeting to look at the way we use our staff. MJ talked about how the education system filled up the meeting room of the County Commissioners and the overflow room and advocated for more funds for education. There was no single person there talking about the importance of libraries. MJ said she wants everyone to understand that libraries are an integral piece of public education. The library board needs to step up and rally the public to make folks understand that public education and public libraries go hand-in-hand. Starting July 1, she expects the library board to step up and help her educate the County Commissioners and the public on the relationship between public education and public libraries. We hope to have the Friends to do a letter-writing campaign in support of public libraries. MJ said she has sign-up sheets for the Commissioners' meetings. She would like to get someone to speak at these meetings once a quarter. MJ will email the dates for the Commissioners' meetings to the board. Courtney suggested an op-ed. MJ talked about a new County program called Alamance Achieves. MJ attended the introductory meeting. She said everything they talked about, "from the cradle to career," libraries have been doing and go even further. Bob Byrd talked about the collective impact model of Alamance Achieves. MJ said that even before Strive Together or Alamance Achieves, libraries have been addressing all those goals. She said, even back in the 1980's libraries covered more than "cradle to career." They covered "cradle to grave." Jason said we are now building those connections into different organizations, making sure that we are forming those alliances with Impact Alamance and Alamance Achieves, as well as other organizations. Bob Byrd asked if MJ had statistics for programs and staff. MJ said she had those statistics for 2015-2016 and would provide them for the August Library Board meeting. She said we have 17 staff out of 52 that handle all the programs. Those 17 provided 1,700 programs during the first 6 months of the year.
- One of the board members asked how we present the library on social media. MJ said social media is used more for advertising our programs and less for advocacy. Because the library is a County department, MJ may not use those platforms to advocate for library support. Christine suggested we get Friends of the Library or Library Board members to post on their social media, advocating for the library. Courtney suggested that, on one of the kick-off dates, set up a camera in one corner of the library and film people saying how much the library means to them. This would be a short video that could be shown to the County Commissioners. She also suggested that during the Alamance Reads programs, we could cut out card stock and have people (especially children) write what the library means to them. These could also be delivered to the County Commissioners. MJ said not to think only of the County Commissioners, but the State and other elected officials like Rick Gunn, Steve Ross and Dennis Riddell. ACPL will have a presence at the PTA meetings in the fall.

- There is a Library Board seat vacant for Burlington and a seat vacant representing the County. Burlington will make their recommendations in June. That person will start in November. The people whose terms expire in October 2017 are Mike, Jo, George, Hiroko and Amy.
- We are moving forward with fundraising for the bookmobile. Advocates will be needed. MJ will be going before the County Commissioners in the fall to update them on progress. We will start a big push for fundraising then. Jason said, beginning in June, at each of the branches, there will be a little book mobile donation box.
- Next meeting is August 15. MJ said she should have a finalized Strategic Plan for everyone to see.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- There was no unfinished business.

NEW BUSINESS

- There was no new business.

FUTURE MEETING DATES

August 15, 2017 (May Memorial)	2:00 pm
November 14, 2017 (May Memorial)	6:30pm for a meal and meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm