

Library Board Radford Public Library
Monday, November 15, 2021 at 5:00 pm

Present in Person: Wilson Rankin, John Yamine, Annyce Levy, Betty Overdorf, Isabelle Calfee

Present via Zoom: Claudia Jones

Absent: Jenni Goodman

Notetaker: Elizabeth Sensabaugh

I. Old Business

- A. The Library Board reviewed the minutes from the 9/20/21 meeting. Betty moved that the minutes be approved and John seconded the motion.
- B. Strategic Plan 2021-2026 was discussed. Wilson suggested that considerations be made to include Covid and the impacts it may have on future planning. Annyce suggested that the City of Radford's Strategic Plan be reviewed and considered. John suggested that other city libraries' plans be considered. Isabella stressed the importance of goals involving the public schools. Annyce made additional suggestions for having a checklist of goals so that goal accomplishment within the Strategic Plan could clearly be tracked. Other mentions included Bobcat connections and more hotspots.

II. New Business

- A. Community Room Policy is being updated. Since the onset of Covid, RPL has reserved the community room for library events and has not opened the room to general public use. This is in keeping with many public libraries. Some groups who have repeatedly used the room in the past and rely on the space, including New River Community College, Women's Club of Radford, Radford Photography Club, Library Board, and other planning and civic committees have used the room upon direct request. The change in reservation will be for the room to be reserved for the current and following month rather than three months in advance as has been the custom. This has not yet begun. A motivating factor in considering this change in procedure is the limited access RPL staff have to the space to deliver programs to the public. When planning library programs, RPL has been challenged to find an available time for which the room is available. Limited public use means that RPL staff are better able to keep the room clean and are familiar with the parties, and the number of participants in each, who continue to use the room.
With regard to changes in the community room policy, it was suggested that RPL offer literature that highlights other available meeting spaces.
- B. Covid Test Distribution is anticipated to begin in November prior to Thanksgiving 2021. RPL has ordered test kits and is awaiting the supplies. This free test supply is in partnership with the Virginia Department of Health and comes at no cost to the library other than staff time involved in distributing the kits via Grab & Go pick-up (no contact). This partnership, referred to as the VDH-Library Pilot Program, is intended to help the community in providing free tests to the public.

- C. Claudia mentioned the importance of programs for homeschoolers and voiced a hope that these programs would expand. She suggested that the collaboration between Pulaski and MFRL be reinstated to offer a variety of events that do not overlap by scheduling. Betty suggested that each library in the consortia have a special topic.
- III. Staffing
- A. Staff member Aaron Mason will be completing his degree for MLIS in December 2021. Staff member Duncan Hall has been accepted in to library school. Staff member Alyssa Long is pursuing her MLIS. Forest Simmons is close to completing her MLIS.
 - B. Story is being considered for a Saint Francis Service Dogs (SFSD) Facility Dog at RPL. An application has been submitted to SFSD. This status would mean that she remains a service dog and provides certain tasks to the public while at the library, likely through program opportunities.
- IV. Programming
- A. Tree Lighting is planned for outdoors on 12/1/2021.
 - B. RPL will dress up the city car and participate in the City Parade on 12/2/2021.
 - C. 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten has been funded in part by Atmos Energy and will begin soon. With the Atmos donation of \$3,000, RPL has purchased Badge Books to give away to children who participate in the reading program. Some books to give away as prizes will also be purchased.
 - D. The Radford Reads with Radford University Committee is in planning stages for its fourth event. The author that the group is working to bring to RPL is Daniel Nayeri, winner of the 2021 Michael L. Printz Award for Excellence in Young Adult Literature for the teen book "Everything Sad is Untrue: A True Story." April 2022 is the targeted month for his visit. The committee is working with Belle Heth and the High School for public school visits in addition to an on campus visit. The Radford University staff involved in the committee are as follows: Dr. Carol Bland, Associate Professor School of Teacher Education and Leadership; Beth Johnson, Head of Access Services and Student Engagement, McConnell Library; and Meghan Viet, Director, Patricia Langford Roughton Teaching Resources Center College of Education and Human Development. The fourth member of the committee is Elizabeth Sensabaugh. The honorarium is largely being covered by Atmos Energy as requested by Director Sensabaugh. RU departments are also providing funding.
- V. Budget
- A. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant for RPL was approved for \$21,129. This amount will cover furniture and other items including online databases.
- VI. Misc.
- A. The Lamplighters' Big Book Sale in November yielded \$1,100 for Friday and Saturday sales!
 - B. Annyce passed along a suggestion that a new bike rack be purchased. The former bike rack was removed when the walk-up window was built.
 - C. John expressed an eagerness to share any program or library flyer at his business. He offered space in his window for signs as well.

- D. Claudia suggested that RPL expand services to include reading programs for children older than 5 so as to provide access to children who are too old to participate in the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. RPL offers this during the Summer Reading Program which is for all ages.
- E. Wilson shared an article from The Smithsonian magazine. The article, found in the November, 2021 Vol. 52 issue, is titled “New Chapter” and is about ‘the nation’s most innovative public library.’ The Benjamin L. Hooks Central Library is located in Memphis. Of note to Wilson is the variety of services and activities offered at the library. Some mentioned services include: ukulele flash mobs, dancing seniors, U.S. naturalization ceremonies, job fairs, financial literacy seminars, jazz concerts, cooking classes, film screening and more including a circulating collection of sewing machines, bicycle repair kits and laptop computers. There are no longer any late fees associated with this library. You can read the article here:
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/memphis-created-nations-innovative-public-library-180978844/>