

Wicomico Public Libraries
Board of Trustees Bimonthly Meeting
Tuesday, August 15, 2023 at 4:p.m.

In Attendance: Audrey Orr, Michele Schlehofer, PhD, George Demko, PhD, Farah Yahya, Chip Dashiell, Esq., Ryan Bass, Brian Bergen-Aurand, PhD, Michele Canopii, PhD, Maida Finch, PhD, Karen Treber, Esq. and Shane Baker, County Council
Staff in Attendance: Seth Hershberger, Bobbi Schreiber, Aurelio Giannitti and Stephanie Daisey

Mr. Bass introduced a **Motion** to approve an **Addition to the Agenda:** The Committee Appointments and the Appointments for the Friends Foundation Task Force. The motion was seconded by Dr. Canopii and approved by all.

Previous Minutes: Dr. Finch made a **Motion** that the minutes of the June meeting be approved; Dr. Demko seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Reports: Mr. Dashiell went through the **Consent Agenda Reports: Donations, Usage & Grant/Outreach**, asking if there were any questions on each, individual report. Ms. Orr made a **Motion** to approve the **Consent Agenda**; it was seconded by Dr. Canopii and was passed. Aurelio and Stephanie informed the Board about the new **STEAM Studio** (formerly known as the Computer Lab) that we have been able to set up because of a Grant we received from Maryland State Library Association. Ms. Yahya expounded on the **Friends' Report** and Dr. Schlehofer delivered the **EDI Report**. Seth shared that the **EDI Committee**, at their last meeting, reviewed a document explaining the structure and purpose of the committee that, when it is complete, will be brought to the Board for approval. As the representative of the **Building Committee**, Dr. Demko explained that they have reviewed plans from the architect for Parsonburg location and made some suggestions on which direction to go. Seth explained the **Director's Report** as well as the **Assistant Director's Report** and the **Financial Report**. Ms. Orr brought a **Motion** to approve the Financial Report and it was seconded by Ms. Treber and approved by all. Shane Baker, from the **County Council**, reported that the Council has temporarily hired a new attorney to represent them, Bob Benson, replacing Andy Mitchell who is out on extended medical leave. Also, the council is working on a bill that would give all the volunteer fire fighters in the county a break on their taxes. Michele Gregory was not at the meeting so there was no **City Council Report**.

New Business: The **Committees of the Board** are as follows:

- **Executive Committee-** Chip Dashiell, Brian Bergen-Aurand, Ryan Bass, Karen Treber, Audrey Orr and Seth Hershberger
- **Nominating Committee-** Audrey Orr, Chip Dashiell and Brian Bergen-Aurand
- **Friends Committee-**Farah Yahya as Chair
- **Executive Director Evaluation Committee-** Audrey Orr, Chip Dashiell, Brian Bergen-Aurand, Karen Treber and Ryan Bass
- **Community Outreach Committee-** Ryan Bass as Chair
- **Building Committee-** George Demko as Chair, Brian Bergen-Aurand, Pattie Tingle and Chip Dashiell

- **EDI Committee Liaison**-Michele Schlehofer
- **ESRL Committee Liaison**-Maida Finch
- **Open Meeting Act Officer**-Brian Bergen-Aurand
- **Friends Foundation Task Force**- Farah Yahya, Audrey Orr, Karen Treber, George Demko, Ryan Bass, Scott Duncan, Susan Bounds and Seth Hershberger

Ms. Orr brought to the Board's attention a need to change the **Bylaws** to reflect that the evaluation for the Executive Director be done in August rather than June as it reads now. This first reading of this proposal was met with a favorable impression and it will be voted on at the meeting in October. The **Patron Code of Conduct Policy** has been reviewed and revised by our Branch Manager, Bernadette Cannady, and our Community Support Specialist, Cristi Richardson. It was presented to the Board for a vote and Ms. Yahya made a **Motion** for approval. Dr. Finch seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved. Seth gave a **Budget Review** for Fiscal year 2023 and an update on the **Strategic Plan for FY 2023 through FY 2027**.

Ms. Treber brought **Motion to Adjourn** for an Executive Session at 5:35 pm. Dr. Demko seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. The Executive Session is closed to the public pursuant to Section 3-305 of the State Government Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland- Personnel Matters [3-305(b)(1)] Board will discuss the appointment, employment, assignment, promotion, discipline, demotion, compensation, removal, resignation, or performance evaluation of an appointee, employee, or official over whom it has jurisdiction; and will consider the acquisition of real property for a public purpose and matters directly related to the acquisition

Next Meeting will be Tuesday, October 17, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:


Chip Dashiell, Board Chair