

Minutes of Meeting: Fairhope Public Library Board of Trustees  
Monday, March 20, 2017

The meeting was held in the Fairhope Public Library's board room. Martin Lanaux called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM. Also in attendance were- Dan Stankoski, Frieda Ward, Alison Knight, Tamara Dean- Library Director, Jimmy Conyers-City Council Liaison and several members of the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library.

Minutes: The minutes from the February 20, 2017 meetings were reviewed and approved with all voting in favor.

Reports: The Monthly Statistical Report, Employee Report and Financial Statement were reviewed. Martin Lanaux noted that the Reference Quest had increased from 8,857 to 13, 540. Tamara Dean reported that the Technical Services Department was in the process of weeding and making an inventory of the library collection. She also said that she had discontinued Instaflix because it was not being used enough. Martin Lanaux noted inaccuracies in the number of internet users. Tamara Dean said she would have these corrected. With these corrections, the reports were approved with all voting in favor.

Tamara Dean reported on some upcoming events including:

War and Remembrance-FPL is the 2<sup>nd</sup> library in the state to have it. She reported lots of interest and said it would be in Fairhope through the end of April.

March 30- Dean Mosher will introduce Michael Marr and his film "The Battle of Mobile Bay" at 6PM.

April 27-Fairhope Founders Day Film

Tamara reported that the Writers in Residence program has asked the library to provide an evening for writers living in the Writers Cottage. She is also interested in starting a quarterly program for local authors.

Summer Reading Program-Build a Better World

June 7- Hoops for Fitness

June 14- Animal Tales

June 21- Freedom Ranch Raptor Reserve Group

June 28- The Noise Guy

(about 500 children will participate in these programs)

Tamara Dean reported that the Fairhope City Council was expected to approve a contract with Goodwyn Mills, an engineering firm for investigating repairs to the library roof and exterior stucco to alleviate leak problems. The contract not to exceed \$49,600.00.

Tamara Dean reported that the Library Foundation Board had provided funding for a Maker Lab. Martin Lanaux asked Tamara to describe a Maker Lab for the benefit of the visitor's. She explained that a maker lab is an area for hands-on collaborative projects often including the use of 3D printers. She said that much interest has been expressed in the Maker Lab from young and old alike. She said that the Lab would initially be housed in a small room on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor but the long range goal is to relocate the Teen

Area onto the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor (currently used by Faulkner) together with an enlarged Maker Space. Tamara said she is very excited to be able to offer the Maker Lab to the community.

Tamara Dean reported that the pavers at the front of the library had been repaired and replaced with pavers which have a high strength, high wear surface coating. She said that City Councilman Robert Brown had taken the lead to get this accomplished.

Tamara Dean reported that the City of Fairhope was putting out a city wide bid for the maintenance of all of the elevators in the city (including the libraries).

Frieda Ward asked what the plan was for the letter written by the Friends of the Fairhope Public Library opposing the proposal that the status of the Fairhope Public Library be changed from an independent facility managed by a Board of Trustees to a city government controlled facility. Dan Stankoski moved that the letter be included as part of the minutes of the meeting.

Martin Lanaux read a statement dated March 20, 2017 saying:

The Board of Trustees for the Fairhope Public Library does not support the City's proposal to make the Library a department of the City of Fairhope. The Library Director and members of her staff have been carefully reviewing the City's draft budget and found omissions and faulty assumptions. They are preparing a report which we strongly feel will show that making the Library a department of the City will offer no savings to the City.

The Board believes that an independent Library Board best serves the interest of the community. The Fairhope Public Library is a dynamic, versatile community center that promotes reading, offers access to information via the internet and provides a multitude of free services and programs. We welcomed more than 193,955 visitors in 2016 and loaned out 214, 839 Books, DVDs, Audio Books, Magazines, and Music and CDs.

With no further business to discuss the meeting was adjourned at 5:38 PM. The next Library Board meeting will be held on Monday, April 17, 2017 at 5:00PM.

Respectfully submitted by Alison Knight