



Library Board of Trustees

Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Via Zoom

Monday, February 14, 2022, 12:00pm – 1:30pm

Trustees Present

Ailen Arreaza
Rob Harrington
Joe Helweg, Chair
Gloria Kelley
Dr. Kimmerly Martin
Tracy Montross
Brandon Neal
Dr. Amy Hawn Nelson
Dr. Ricky Woods

Absent

Jon Buchan
Charles Thomas

Staff Present

Karen Beach
Elyse Berrier
Kevin Bittle
Barbara Cantisano
David Dillard
Jessica DiGiovanni
Asha Ellison
Michael Engelbrecht
Harold Escalante
Saul Hernandez
Jesse Isley
Meryle Leonard
Anne Mavian
Pamela McCarter
Caitlin Moen
Angie Myers
Emily Nanney
Chantez Neymoss
John O'Connor
LaJuan Pringle
Keisha Portis
Amy Richard
Elesha Roupp
Lynn Sack
Kathy Scott
Sandy Stratton
Holly Summers-Gil
Hillary Swierc
Kim Sykes-Joseph
Tony Tallent
Marcellus Turner
Martha Yesowitch

Others Present

Mark Kutny
Leslie Johnson, Mecklenburg County

Joe welcomed everyone to the Board Meeting at 12:00pm.

Absence with Cause

Mr. Helweg requested a motion to approve absence with cause for Rob Harrington, Joh Buchan and Charles Thomas. On a motion by Brandon Neal and seconded by Tracy Montross, the Trustees unanimously approved their absence with cause.

Minutes

Mr. Helweg requested a motion to approve the minutes from the Board of Trustees meeting held on February 14, 2022. On a motion by Brandon Neal and seconded by Tracy Montross, the Trustees unanimously approved the February 14, 2022 meeting minutes.

Rob Harrington joined the meeting at 12:07pm.

Chair Report

Mr. Helweg provided the following updates:

- MoLi Ribbon Cutting
 - Ceremony was an awesome and fun event
 - Great energy from the attendees
- Special Thanks
 - Special thanks to Asha Ellison for the professional handling of the PBS news story
 - Special thanks to the Carolina Room staff on the quality and depth of work on the Systemic Racism report
- Board Retreat
 - If you haven't already, please respond to the Survey Monkey sent out by Elesha Roupp
 - The Racial Equity Task Force did great work and put the Library in a position to take actionable steps toward racial equity
 - The board retreat will give us time to take a deeper dive into the report and devise an action plan
 - Please do your best to attend

Committee Reports

Governance Committee

Rob Harrington provided the following updates:

- As a reminder the committee is working to replace me and Gloria Kelley. Both of our terms were extended 1-year due to the library losing so many trustees and at the same time having so many important projects going on.
- The committee met on January 31, and we began the process of suggesting names
- If anyone on the Board would like to recommend someone, please let us know
- We will update the full board of trustees during the March meeting
- We will send a letter to the BoCC outlining our recommendations
- Commissioners will consider the applicants on April 19 at their Commission meeting of course this timeline is subject to change
- The committee will meet again on Friday, February 25

Tracy Montross and Chantez Neymoss provided the following updates:

- MeckTech project received \$8MM in funds from the FCC as part of the emergency connectivity fund
- We will use these funds to provide 20,000 refurbished computers to adults in need in Mecklenburg County
- There have been funding and process delays on FCC's side

- An internal advocacy committee was created to determine avenues for an extension of the deadline
- Due to the funding and process delays we are asking the FCC to extend the deadline which is currently June 30 of 2022 to June 30 of 2023
- We have participated in 2 calls with FCC Chairwoman, Rosa Morsels office and we are currently waiting on a decision.
- Without the extension our program will be cut by 75%
- Many organizations have already cut programs by 50% - 75% due to delays in funding
- Met with Starla Tanner, Mecklenburg County's legislative liaison regarding this manner and we are planning additional advocacy at the state and local level and well as working to keep local stakeholders informed
- The Library may have to consider different vendors or at least a new way of working with our current vendor and there will likely be a large-scale distribution plan scheduled

Finance Committee

Angie Myers provided the following updates:

Budget Adjustments

- \$150,000 from ABC to Misc. General Operating
- \$15,000 from Foundation Contribution to General Operating
- \$14,694 from State to Library Collections
- \$4,450 from Other to Professional Services
- \$10,000 from Foundation Contribution to Misc. General Operating
- (\$3,514) from Foundation Contribution to Misc. General Operating (Error Correction)

On a motion by the Finance Committee and seconded by Brandon Neal, the board unanimously approved the above budget adjustments.

FY 2023 Budget Update

- Took the Board's feedback and made adjustments
 1. Pineville Year 1- Staff, Operating Expenses & Opening Day Collections
 2. Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer
 3. Security Master Plan (AFM Submission)
 4. Bilingual Pay Premium
 5. Library Collections (ARPA Request)
- County had their staff kick-off
- There is some hesitancy in adding positions due to high vacancy rates across the county, but the Library's vacancy rate is not as high and most of our vacancies are in part time positions
- Planning to use vacant positions to reclassify as a Webmaster position
- The Library will present February 15 to county leadership including our Deputy County Manager, Leslie Johnson and if we receive any surprising feedback, we will update you

Real Estate Committee

Brandon Neal, Marcellus Turner and David Dillard presented a first draft of the Facilities Master Plan presentation scheduled to be delivered to the Board of County Commissioners in 2022.

Note: The Plan and presentation will be finalized in the coming months and a larger communication strategy to employees and other stakeholders will be shared as documents are finalized.

CEO Report

Marcellus Turner provided the following updates:

- We have reached out to other libraries in the state to see if they're interested in presenting a joint letter to the FCC
- Thanks to Asha Ellison for managing the library's response to the PBS news story and we will continue to monitor and follow up with any issues related to the story

Library Director Report

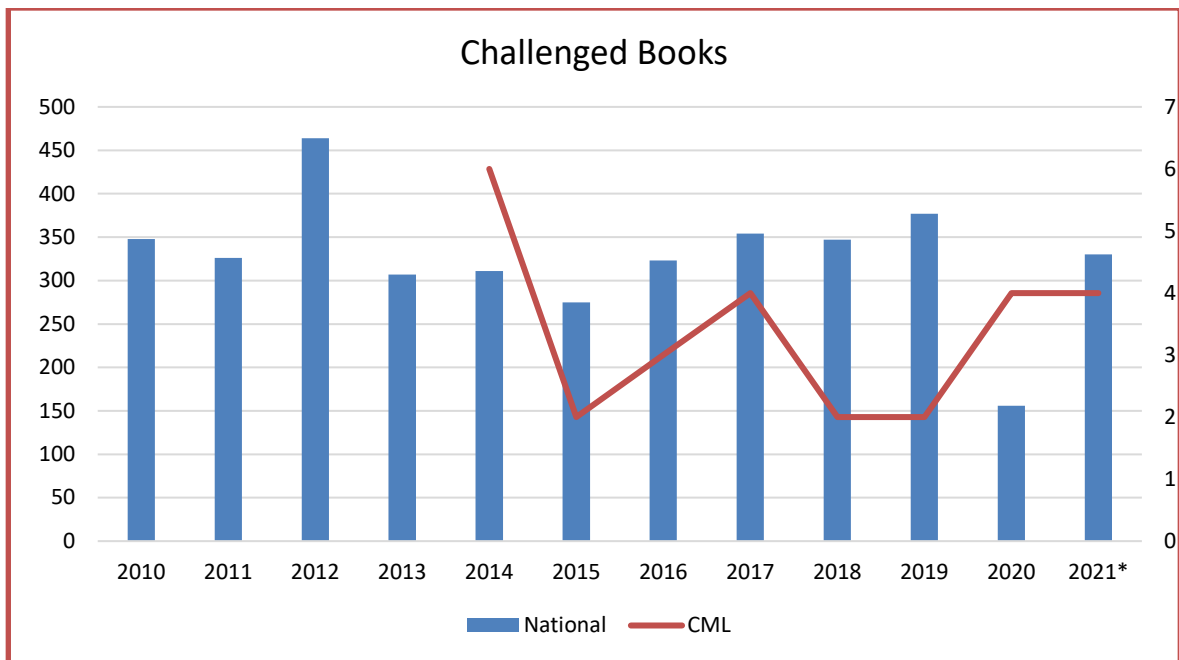
Ann Mavian provided the Story of Impact:

- Library associate Susan Jones at Mint Hill shares her artistic talent and introduced a new rookie science program anime draw.
- Every month she sets up her Zoom and camera and teaches kids how to draw anime characters
- She also creates a "take and make" for each program providing art supplies and written directions for the drawings
- The program is so popular with 10-15 children participating that she created a similar program for older children using more advanced drawing techniques
- The children get so excited about their art that they email Susan their drawings

Intellectual Freedom Update

LaJuan Pringle and Ann Mavian provided the following updates:

- What is Intellectual Freedom?
 - Intellectual freedom is the right of every individual to both seek and receive information from all points of view without restriction. It provides for free access to all expressions of ideas through which any and all sides of a question, cause or movement may be explored. American Library Association
 - Public libraries have a responsibility to represent a broad range of materials in their collections and to meet the needs of everyone in the community, including those who may be marginalized or part of a minority. While individual library users have the right to voice their concerns about a library book and select different materials for themselves and their own families, those objecting to a book should not be given the power to restrict other users' right to access those books. Library selection policies should reflect these concepts. [NCLA website – Censorship statement](#)
 - We have our Materials Selection Policy available to the public on cmlibrary.org
 - We have Internal Procedures for staff that include a Statement of Concern form available on our website
 - Nationally, challenges have ramped up in 2021 with 330 reports in 3 months. We average 3.4 challenges every year and have received 4 so far in FY 2022. We have not removed any books from our collections.



- As library employees and as library board members, we all must be prepared to defend our intellectual freedom
- In addition to serving as the branch leader, LaJuan Pringle is also Chair of the NCLA Library Advocacy and Legislative Action. We primarily provide federal advocacy, but we also advise on state and local advocacy.
- You should have received a copy of our intellectual freedom talking points and these mainly come from our material selection policy, but we also draw upon several other resources that allow us to describe our position and these mainly come from the ALA Bill of Rights.
- NCLA recently did a statement on censorship, and we've adopted some of their statements to reflect our own position as well.
- Talking points include:
 - The library provides materials in our collections that encourage freedom of expression and represent the widest diversity of views.
 - We strongly urge all customers to select materials for you and your families that you deem appropriate.
 - The presence of an item in the library does not indicate any endorsement of its content by the library.
 - As a Charlotte Mecklenburg Library customer, you have the right to voice concerns about a library book and we appreciate your concern. You may submit a statement of concern about library resources for them to the Assistant Director of Collections and Access.

Board Email Discussion

Michael Engelbrecht and MT updated the Board on the following:

- What are we doing?
 - Creating board members an email address using cmlibrary.org. All Library Board correspondence should flow through this email address instead of your work or personal email.
- Why are we doing this?
 - To better adhere to the NC statutes on public records retention and CM Library's record retention and disposition schedule.
- When will this happen?
 - If there are no objections, we will begin creating these email addresses quickly

MeckTech Update

Chantez Neymoss provided the following updates:

- We are nearing the first phase being complete. That phase will be 100 plus homes where equipment is being installed. We are going home by home and installing it and leaving door hangers.
- The coverage map shows where the home internet is being installed
- MeckTech customer support is taking place at the West Boulevard branch where customers can call and get assistance from library staff.
- Computers will go out to customers receiving the MeckTech Connect internet so we can fulfill all the needs of the customers.

Foundation Update

Karen Beach provided the following updates:

- New addition to the Foundation Team. Sadie Adare joined Jenni's family.
- While Jenni Gaisbauer is out on FMLA you can contact Karen Beach with any questions
- Maggie Bean has joined the Foundation Team as the Marketing & Communication Specialist
- Tepper Foundation announcement gave us huge visibility for project and campaign
- Notable press included Association Press and ESPN Online
- Upcoming Author Event will be a conversation with Marie Benedict:
 - Conversation with Marie Benedict, *NY Times* bestselling author of *The Other Einstein*, *Carnegie's Maid*, *Lady Clementine* and others.
 - New novel shines a light on Rosalind Franklin - a brilliant and overlooked scientist - who sacrificed her life to discover the nature of our DNA
 - *Tentative Date* is March 30 from 12-1pm.
 - Tickets and more information available soon at foundation.cmlibrary.org.

At 1:32pm on a motion by Brandon Neal, the board adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Marcellus Turner
CEO