

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 25, 2025 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Tony Townsend (Albemarle)
Meredith Cole (Charlottesville)
Brandy Polanowski (Louisa)
Michael Powers (Albemarle)

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)
Peter Morville (Albemarle)
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Martha Ledford (Greene)

OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director
Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist

Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director
Ophelia Payne, Louisa County Library Branch Manager
Vice President Aleta Childs (Nelson)

CALL TO ORDER, REMOTE PARTICIPATION CONFIRMATION, & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's (JMRL) Board of Trustees was convened on Monday, February 25, 2025 at 3:00 PM, at the Louisa County Library (881 Davis Highway, Mineral, VA 23117), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qclJnVqBso>.) Trustee Hemenway moved that President Tony Townsend's request to attend today's meeting of the JMRL Board remotely due to a personal matter, specifically care-giving duties, be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Hemenway moved that Trustee Meredith Cole's request to attend today's meeting of the JMRL Board remotely due to a personal matter, specifically work obligations, be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Childs connected to the meeting in progress via telephone. Trustee Powers moved that the minutes for the January 27, 2025 Board Meeting be accepted. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ophelia Payne, Louisa County Library Branch Manager, welcomed everyone in attendance to the Louisa County Library and announced there would be a branch tour at the end of the Board meeting. No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

David Plunkett, JMRL's Library Director, presented to the Board an information gathering report on Library Fines and Fees.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

1. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed Policy 4.41 (Bookmobile), which is still undergoing review. The Policy Committee also discussed Policy 2.44 (Employment References), which will potentially be brought to the Board in April. No new drafts were ready to recommend to the full Board. The next Policy Committee meeting will be April 28, 2025, prior to the full Board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

1. FY26 Draft Budget Update

Director Plunkett reported that the Louisa County Board of Supervisors voted to include full funding for library services in their initial draft budget, which will be up for a vote on April 21, 2025. Director Plunkett and Trustee Ledford will attend a budget work session with Greene County on March 11, 2025. Albemarle County executives' proposed budget discussion will be February 26, 2025.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Fines and Fees Discussion

The Board discussed JMRL's Fines and Fees. A Fines and Fees Working Group was created and will be made up of Trustee Powers, Trustee Russell, Trustee Polanowski, Director Plunkett, and two JMRL employees, potentially Brittany Eversberg and Kayla Payne. The Fines and Fees Working Group will meet in the next month and have a first report for the Board in March.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett shared with the Board JMRL's book repair statistics for 2024. A total of 5,415 books were returned to the collection after repair, with a value of \$81,000. Director Plunkett thanked the volunteers who help with JMRL book repair. JMRL received a third distribution from the Hartman Estate. Director Plunkett will bring a suggestion and a motion for the Board next month regarding the Hartman Estate distribution. JMRL's second annual Teen Poet Laureate Contest is open and runs until Sunday, March 30, 2025; the winner will be announced at an award ceremony at the Central Library on Monday, April 28, 2025. Director Plunkett reminded the Board that this year's Same Page Community Read will be "Chesapeake Requiem" by Earl Swift; Director Plunkett handed out brochures of events to Trustees. The Same Page Community Read event will be at the Virginia Festival of the Book on March 20, 2025. Director Plunkett reminded the Board that every Spring each JMRL Branch closes for Staff Training Day, on different days; these closings can be found on JMRL's website (jmrl.org).

OTHER MATTERS

President Townsend reminded the Board that next month's Board meeting will be at the Greene County Library.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include a report from the Fines and Fees Working Group, a FY26 Budget Update, and the Board self-evaluation. The next Board Meeting will be March 24, 2025 at the Greene County Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:11pm.
