

**Pamunkey Regional Library
Board of Trustees Meeting
September 28, 2022**

The Pamunkey Regional Library (PRL) Board of Trustees (BOT) met on Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at the Goochland Branch Library.

Attendees

Attending were Trustees:

Goochland County: Barbara Sensabaugh, Barb Young

Hanover County: Julie May, Mike Smith

King William County: John Edwards

Unable to attend:

Hanover County: Joe O'Connor

King William County: Mary Shipman

King and Queen County: Tricia Simpkins

Guests Attending:

Christie Shumacher: Atlee Branch Library parent

Timone Shumacher: Atlee Branch Library parent

Library staff present included:

Tom Shepley - PRL Director

Jamie Stoops – PRL Staff

Sherida Bradpee – PRL Staff

There was not a quorum present for this meeting.

1. Call to Order/ Welcome

In the absence of both the BOT Chair and the Vice Chair, Barbara Sensabaugh, Goochland BOT member stepped in as temporary Chair and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and welcomed all BOT members who were in attendance. She also welcomed additional PRL Staff present, Jamie Stoops and Sherida Bradpee, and guests present, Christie and Timone Shumacher. Atlee Branch Library patrons.

2. Consideration of agenda amendments

J. May asked for time to speak at the end of the Citizens' Time.

3. Citizens' time

A. Statement by Atlee Branch Library patron, Christie Shumacher

Christie Shumacher, a patron and a parent from Atlee Branch Library spoke. She first introduced her husband, Timone Shumacher, who was also in attendance. C. Shumacher expressed concerns

about a recent library display in the Youth Section of the Atlee Branch Library, created for the library's celebration of Banned Books Week. She made several points including:

1. She expressed appreciation for the new Atlee Branch Library.
2. She stated that she was making a statement at the meeting as a patron of the Atlee Branch Library and as a parent of two boys who are also patrons of the Atlee Branch Library.
3. She stated that she was shocked by a display she saw the week before at the library. The display she spoke about was a display in the youth section of the library made for Banned Books Week.
4. She specifically stated that she was not asking for censorship or removal of any books from the library.
5. She stated she felt that PRL needs a guidance document/policy for future library displays.
6. She shared pictures of the display that concerned her. The pictures showed books which had been suggested for banning. Each book had a large red X across its front cover with lettering as to why it was suggested for banning. Examples of those labels were: Sex, LGBTQ, Transgender content, etc.
7. She stated she felt displays should be age-appropriate for all ages.
8. She stated that she visited the Ashland Branch Library. There was a display there for Banned Books Week but the display was located in the adult area and included some of the classical books, too, and seemed to be much more appropriately handled.
9. She stated that she also visited the Mechanicsville Branch Library. She found a display in the young adults section with longer descriptions for possible banning on each book, but she still felt it was inappropriate.
10. She stated that Atlee Branch Library had nothing for the Banned Book Week in the adult section.
11. In her final statement, she said she thought the display was in poor taste and that the library should avoid hot topics on cultural items.

B. Statements from BOT re. the concerns expressed

1. From J. May, Hanover BOT member:

First, I thank the citizens who reached out to the Library Board and Administration to express their concerns about the censorship display. I am grateful for your care and support for the library branches in Hanover and our three partner counties. The Library Board has heard your comments and recommendations.

As one of the representatives for Hanover County on this Board, I respectfully request that Library staff keep displays and publicity informative and family friendly; engaging not shocking. Exercise care for the reputation and dignity of the Library and the County we serve.

2. From B. Young, Goochland BOT member:

B. Young expressed concern about the nature of the display in question and extended an apology to the patrons for what she felt was an inappropriate way to display information for the Banned Books Week.

B. Sensibaugh, as acting Chair, thanked the parents for expressing their concerns.

4. Consideration of the Consent Agenda

The items on the Consent Agenda were:

1. August 2022 board meeting minutes
2. July and August 2022 warrants
3. July and August 2022 Board Financial Report

Since there was not a quorum present, the vote to accept the Consent agenda items will be moved to the October 2022 BOT meeting.

5. Old Business

A. Personnel Committee Update

J. May, Chair of the Personnel Committee, stated that the new Director's Goals for FY 2023, created by the Personnel Committee, had been shared with all BOT members through email. She asked if there were any comments. M. Smith suggested a change to #1. Budget and Finance, item c. He suggested that we use the first sentence only.

J. May said the next step will be to add the change suggested by M. Smith and then as Personnel Committee Chair, she will bring the revised document to the October 2022 meeting for final approval.

B. Montpelier update

T. Shepley stated that design and engineering for the new facility is moving along. He said that Hanover County hopes to have the RFP out for bid by November 2022, and for the construction to start in early 2023.

C. West Point update

T. Shepley and J. Edwards explained that moving the West Point Branch library to the old West Point Police facility is moving forward. They distributed a proposed floor plan design for the new library facility and a projected budget broken out by each main item in the project. The proposed budget for the new library ranges from \$924,485.00 to \$1,059,165.00. The Town of West Point has said they will contribute \$500,000 to the new library location. Discussion continues how to raise the additional funds needed.

The building to be used for the new library facility was built in the 1970's. The new library will end up with an additional 400 square feet of space. The building currently has a new roof and

newer HVAC system. The building will, however, need to be brought up to current electrical and lighting standards.

D. FY2024 budget

T. Shepley distributed the Proposed Budget for FY2024. He noted on the budget page in the second column (FY2024 Proposed):

1. The King and Queen number is higher to get them back to a 34 hours/week.
2. State Aid – It is expected that there will be another increase in State Aid.
3. We are looking at a possible 5% increase in salaries in FY2024.

E. Audit

PRL is still working with the auditors, but we have had problems with our current auditors, Cherry Bekaert^{LLP}, that their performance has not met our expectations. This year (FY2022) our audit will still be done by Cherry Bekaert^{LLP}, but T. Shepley and K. Catron, PRL Staff, are on the selection committee for the auditors to use for FY2023.

7. Report of Library Director

A. Library staff vacancies

PRL is working hard to fill vacancies. As of the meeting, there are 11 openings. There is still an open IT position and it is at the top of the list to be filled. This position requires not only IT expertise, but also needs to have management skills. J. May suggested that PRL talk with some of the local colleges and universities.

B. COVID update

PRL Admin has had a steady flow of staff ill. However, the branches seem to be doing better.

C. Flu Shots

Atlee Branch Library will be a site where staff can get flu shots.

9. Adjournment

The October 2022 BOT meeting will be held on October 26, 2022 at the West Point Branch Library at 10:00 a.m.

Having completed the business of the PRL BOT, Temporary Chair B. Sensabaugh adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m. by acclimation of the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Young
PRL Board of Trustees' Secretary