

Cleveland County Memorial Library  
Board of Trustees Virtual Meeting  
November 12, 2020

Attending: Mark Alan Hudson, Chair; Michelle Garey; Robin Brackett and Wright Adams, Library Director.

Unable to attend: Doug Bridges, County Commissioner; Miranda Hyland; Ann Royster, Rebecca Higgins.

Call to Order: Mark Hudson called the virtual meeting to order at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes: There have been no minutes during 2020 as no meetings have been held. However, a final report prepared by Carol Wilson, former Library Director, had previously been distributed to the Board as well as to Assistant County Manager Kerri Melton. In it, she highlighted activities of the Library throughout 2020 including responses to COVID-19 and programming. She also updated the Board on the County's early retirement program, which will have a significant impact on the Library, including Carol's retirement. A search for a new Director had already started at the time of her report.

Given that her report is an outstanding document, Michelle Garey recommended we formally accept it. Those attending voted to do so recognizing that we had no quorum but since it was not a "Board Minutes" document, the recommendation and vote serves to acknowledge its existence and acceptance as a status report from the outgoing director.

Old Business: Mr. Hudson briefly highlighted items that the Board of Trustees is awaiting information about from the County leadership which include the status of Bylaws Revisions which were returned to County Administration for Commissioner approval prior to COVID-19 arrival and on-going work regarding the name change of the Library as the result of a naming opportunity.

Additionally, it was noted that just prior to the arrival of our new Director, Mr. Wright Adams, a significant unrestricted gift of \$50,000 was made to the Library by Mr. Torrance Combs which was handled by Jo Anne Owens, the former Assistant Director who recently retired. Mr. Combs in recent years has made other significant gifts, including a \$30,000 gift. Mr. Hudson noted there has been no request from Mr. Combs for any naming action, however, it might be nice for our new director and/or our Board Chair, to acknowledge the gift, especially given its amount.

Introduction of New Director: Mr. Hudson then introduced Mr. Wright Adams, our new Director. Mr. Adams shared a synopsis of his professional work history which included early work in New York City and increasingly responsible positions with the Forsyth County Library in Winston-Salem. His experiences have included a wealth of "outreach" initiatives, community engagement and operational efficiencies.

Director's Report: Mr. Adams then shared detailed information on his activities to date in familiarizing himself with current operations and staff while beginning to develop operational and programming plans for the next 6-month to 18-month time period. In addition to the pandemic, on-going retirements provide additional challenges as he starts his work. He is looking closely at how to garner staff efficiencies while at the same time improving customer access. Self service options, IT access and more

virtual options are essential components of this planning. He is also addressing ways to configure the building to assist in this process. Mr. Adams noted as well that a strategic plan will be undertaken to address both staff and user opinions.

Those present for the meeting noted their approval for the initiatives discussed.

Board Q & A: Some items in this section were addressed as part of the above discussion. Of specific mention at this point in the meeting were the need to enhance the new digital sign's usefulness, the need to establish future board meeting times to be convenient with all board members, the need to add board members and to finalize the Bylaws revision process.

Adjournment: Mr. Hudson encouraged all Trustees to take the opportunity to visit Mr. Adams at the Library as he further acclimates himself in order to learn more about him and how we can help him learn more about our county and/or assist him. He also asked Trustees to consider citizens who might be good future Board members.

Mr. Hudson noted that for this meeting, he would draft minutes for Mr. Adams to review prior to being sent out to the entire Board. There being no further business, he adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Alan Hudson, LFACHE  
Board Chair