

Library Board Minutes

March 17, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Location: Telephone Conference Call

The meeting was called to order at 4:03pm. In accordance with the provisions of Section 2.2-3708.2 (3) of the State code, the Library Board met to hold an emergency meeting via electronic conference call in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic to discuss the Library's plan during efforts to contain the spread of COVID-19.

Present on the call: Kathleen Schloeder, Oscar Fitzgerald, Helen Desfosses, Trudi Hahn, Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Robert Ray IV, Director Dawson, Deputy Director Knight, and Division Chief/Administrative Services Wesson

Excused: Patricia Rogers

Director Dawson presented two options to the Library Board to consider. Option A would close Burke Branch Library, Duncan Branch Library, and the Law Library temporarily, limit access to the Local History/Special Collections to appointments only, and maintain the current schedule at Beatley Central Library and Barrett Branch Library. Option B would close all library locations, as surrounding jurisdictions were doing, including Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William, and others. The libraries would close until March 31, 2020. Library staff would be required to report to work during a modified operating schedule of 9am to 5pm. In both options, fines would be adjusted, loan periods extended, and temporary card expiration dates extended. Customers would be encouraged to use the library's e-collections and staff would pursue modified customer programming and service.

Vice Mayor Bennett-Parker moved to pursue Option B to close all buildings until March 31. The motion was seconded by Ms. Desfosses. After further discussion, the motion carried by voice vote with five ayes and Mr. Fitzgerald opposed.

A motion to adjourn at 5:30pm was made by Ms. Bennett-Parker and seconded by Ms. Desfosses. The motion carried.