

Library Board Minutes

March 30, 2020 – Emergency Meeting

Location: Telephone Conference Call

The meeting was called to order at 10:40am. 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 operating status in the coming weeks 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, Patricia Rogers, Director Dawson, Deputy Director Knight, and Division Chief/Administrative Services Wesson

Director Dawson summarized services since the board decision to close the libraries to the public, noting that digital services were seeing an increase in usage and have been well-received by customers.

Mr. Ray moved that the Alexandria Library will follow the American Library Association's recommendation to only reopen its libraries to the public when guidance from Alexandria public health officials indicates the risk from COVID-19 has significantly subsided. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Director Dawson presented two options regarding staff operations during the closure. Option 1 would require staff to remain in the library facilities, while sending as many people home to telework as possible. Option 2 would require only essential personnel to remain in the library buildings with all others teleworking including creating additional virtual services. Those employees who could not work from home would be placed on a reserve list for other potential City duties. Ms. Bennett-Parker moved to support option 2 which was seconded by Mr. Desfosses. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

A motion to adjourn at 11:04am was made by Ms. Hahn and seconded by Ms. Rogers. The motion carried.