



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Minutes 14 September 2022

Commissioners Present: Scott Billigmeier, Dias-Mattina, James H. Hershman, Jr., Chair; Mandy Kinne, Elizabeth Scheib, Russ Woolard

Commissioners Absent: Paul Coyer

Others Present: Don Cooper, President, Friends of Thomas Balch Library

Staff Present: Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

Meeting convened by Hershman in lower-level meeting room, Thomas Balch Library, at 7:02 PM.

Electronic Recording Statement: It is the practice of the Town of Leesburg to record meetings of the Town's standing boards and commissions. The audio portion of this recording of this meeting failed. Recording not posted.

Minutes: Minutes of the regular commission meeting of 10 August 2022 were approved on a motion by Scheib and a second by Dias-Mattina.

Scott Billigmeier, appointed to the Commission on September 13 to fill a vacancy, was welcomed and introductions made.

Library Director: Report attached.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.:

- The fundraiser was held 11 September 2022 was successful with 68 attendees; a panel discussion and two donations to the library: Margaret and Brown Morton presented a framed lithograph of Lord Loudoun and Don Cooper presented a history of the property on which TBL sits. Income received from the event has not been finalized.
- The date for the next annual meeting is Sunday, 11 December 2022 (weather date, 8 January 2023); held at Thomas Balch Library. Video oral history of Wynne Saffer will be featured. No food; masks required.
- The next newsletter will be published in October.

Thomas Balch Library Endowment Foundation: Gressitt, Secretary/Treasurer reporting

- The next meeting of the Foundation is scheduled for 20 September 2022 @ 12 noon at the Thomas Balch Library. TD Bank representatives will provide a financial overview of the investments.

Old Business:

- Catalogue Project: Hershman, who participated in the process, commented positively on the selected candidate. Gressitt shared information on the status of the project. The project continues with preliminary work with both OCLC and Loudoun County Public Library. The cataloguer, Madison Russell, will start 3 October. As the project progresses, particularly during the later Spring, the Library will need help from volunteers, Commissioners are welcome. In theory the catalogue conversion should be completed by FY23's end (June 30). Excitement for this project remains high among staff.
- Memorial for Leesburg's Potter's Field. Hershman and Gressitt provide updated information on the project. Travis Shaw is cataloguing the boxes or material from Loudoun Museum and the Town is on target to reinter in November with a Spring 2023 event.
- Loudoun History Awards: general discussion on process and nominations. Reminder that the official picture would be taken at this event which also serves as the November Commission meeting.

New Business:

- Election of a Vice Chair: following discussion of duties and invitations to volunteer, on a motion nominating Elizabeth Scheib by Dias-Mattina, seconded by Woolard, Scheib was unanimously elected Vice Chair.

Councilmanic remarks: Mentioned Council would be considering historic narrative to accompany the mural to be affixed to the Museum wall. Mr. Cummings mentioned he had suggested the Library Director.

Commission Comments: General expressions of appreciation for the success of the Potter's Field project and welcoming of the new Commissioner, Scott Billigmeier.

Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 14 September 2022 @ 7PM in the Lower-Level meeting Room at Thomas Balch Library.

On a motion by Scheib and a second by Dias-Mattina the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra S. Gressitt
Library Director
15 September 2022