



Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Minutes 11 January 2023

Commissioners Present: Candace Baracat-Donohue; Scott Billigmeier; Paul Coyer; James H Hershman, Jr. Chair; Adrian Dias-Mattina; Russ Woolard

Commissioners Absent: Elizabeth Scheib, Vice Chair

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 7:06 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 11 December 2022 were approved on a motion by Billigmeier and a second by Coyer.

Welcome/Introductions: Newly appointed Commissioner Baracat-Donovan was welcomed and introductions made.

Library Director: Report attached.

Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.:

- Next meeting of the Friends Board, where officers will be elected, is 17 January 2023 @ 9:30AM at Thomas Balch Library.
- The Friends will establish a link for Amazon purchasers to donate to FTBL.
- In 2022 raised \$54,000; net \$24,000. Received \$5,000 grant from Virts-Miller Foundation.

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

- At the November meeting the Library was authorized to bid on an item. The Library was successful in its bid.
- Next meeting of the Foundation is 17 January 2023 @ 12 at Thomas Balch Library.

Old Business:

- Catalogue Project is progressing smoothly; training videos are being created; printer/scanner equipment has been acquired, and we are on target for a June completion date.

- Memorial for Leesburg's Potter's Field. Hershman noted he went to Union Cemetery to check on the status of the Potter's Field project. He reported: the reburial as complete and the original, small stone at the new site. He indicated it's clearer now how the memorial will be laid out, quite visible from Rust library and at a respectable distance from equipment sheds. In response to questions, Gressitt affirmed that details on construction of memorial site and sign are being finalized and an event is still on track for Spring.
- Memorial tree for Martha Schonberger: Following up on the December discussion Scheib and Gressitt met with a Landscaper who offered additional options which were reviewed. The site is relatively small and following discussion of various options, Woolard moved and Dias-Mattina seconded, that a deep pink dogwood tree be selected as a memorial. Gressitt will report their decision to Parks and Rec. In initial discussion with Parks and Rec it was thought that there is money already in the library grounds budget to cover the cost of a tree and memorial sign.

New Business:

- Pursuant to Bylaws of the Commission election of officers for 2023 were held. Scheib being absent, Gressitt read into the record her interest in the position for Vice Chair. Following discussion, elections were held. Vice Chair: Elizabeth Scheib was elected on a nomination by Woolard, seconded by Dias-Mattina with a vote of 6-0-1 (6 yes, 0 no, 1 absent). Chair: James H. Hershman, Jr. was elected on a nomination by Coyer seconded by Woolard with a vote of 5-0-1-1 (5 yes, 0 no, 1 absent, 1 abstention, Hershman.)
- Agenda Process for TBLAC – no action taken – moved to next meeting.
- Hershman reported Kelly Burk as the new Council Manic for TBLAC and that Gressitt sent a thank you to Cummings for his assistance over the last two years.
- Hershman noted topics to be considered moving forward were space and rebranding of the library as a research library and cultural resource center – the library to be a hub for historical and cultural activity.

Councilmanic remarks: None

Commission Comments:

- Woolard noted he would be rejoining the volunteers at Dodona Manor after a hiatus of three years and would resume sharing information between the two institutions.
- Coyer noted he had visited Fulton, Missouri, where Winston Church, introduced by Harry Truman, gave his Iron Curtain talk at Westminster College, 5 March 1946.

On a motion by Woolard and a second by Dias-Mattina the meeting adjourned at 8:10PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra S. Gressitt
 Library Director
 12 January 2023