



# Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Minutes 12 July 2023

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

**Commissioners Present Virtually:** Scott Billigmeier

**Commissioners Absent:** Elizabeth Scheib, Vice Chair

**Others Present:** Don Cooper, President FTBL

**Staff Present:** Alexandra S. Gressitt, Library Director

**Meeting convened** by Hershman in lower-level meeting room, Thomas Balch Library, at 7:10 PM.

**Electronic Recording Statement:** It is the practice of the Town of Leesburg to record meetings of the Town's standing boards and commissions.

**Virtual Participation:** Billigmeier requested to attend the meeting virtually, a motion in favor was moved by Coyer, seconded by Woolard and unanimously approved.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular commission meeting of 10 May and 14 June 2023 were approved on a motion by Coyer and a second by Woolard.

**Library Director:** Report attached.

**Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, Inc.:**

- Next Board meeting is 18 July 2023 @ 9:30AM at Thomas Balch Library
- Next Balch Chronicle will be coming out in the next several weeks to include coverage of the Douglass High School reopening and the upcoming Friends event in September.

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

- Next meeting of the Foundation is 18 July 2023 @ 12 noon at Thomas Balch Library.

**Old Business:**

- Gressitt reporting on the Catalog Project noted the successful completion of the conversion from Dewey to Library of Congress classification and the launching of a new catalog Thomas Balch library Centennial Catalog. Handouts, including a map showing location of books, an instruction sheet on using the catalog and a bookmark with LC classification numbers was distributed. A motion commending the Library Director and recognizing her efficient and highly professional

management and direction of the catalog project moved by Coyer, seconded by Woolard, passed unanimously.

- Memorial tree for Martha Schonberger: Gressitt reported on the status. A fall date is anticipated.
- Land Acknowledgement landmark was briefly discussed and carried forward for further discussion as information arises.

**New Business:**

- A motion commending the Library Director and recognizing her efficient and highly professional management and direction of the catalog project moved by Coyer, seconded by Woolard, passed unanimously.
- History Awards – review team of two commissioner members, Baracat-DonovanDo and Woolard was selected to review nominations with the Library Director. The Library Director was given the go ahead to the award process for 2023 including publicity.
- Following a brief discussion of St James' historic cemetery, Billigmeier and Coyer expressed interest, should their schedules permit, in attending the 1PM 26 July 2023 meeting, called by Thomas Horne, to be held at TBL.
- A motion approving the annual report for the TBLAC as prepared by the Chair moved by Woolard, seconded by Dias-Mattina, passed unanimously.
- Both Coyer and Hershman made requests to attend the August 9 meeting virtually. A motion in favor of Coyer and Hershman attending the August 9 meeting remotely, moved by Woolard, seconded by Baracat-Donovan, passed four in favor with two, Coyer and Hershman, abstaining.
- Hershman shared information regarding an upcoming meeting chaired by Carl Rush, Loudoun County Equity Officer and a research team from UVA to be held at TBL, 9AM to 1PM on Monday July 24. Members of the Black History Committee and TBL staff have been included in this meeting. Library and BHC resources regarding will be used to better understand the impact of school desegregation on members of the African American community in Loudoun County. The group will also be meeting at the newly reopened Douglass High School. Coyer expressed interest in attending this meeting.

**Councilmanic remarks:** None.

**Commission Comments:** None.

On a motion by Coyer, seconded by Woolard the meeting adjourned at 8:05PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra S. Gressitt  
Library Director  
12 July 2023