



# Thomas Balch Library Advisory Commission Minutes 10 April 2024

**Commissioners Present:** Tony Barnard; Scott Billigmeier; Paul Coyer; Candace Baracat-Donovan; James H Hershman, Jr. Chair; Adrian Dias-Mattina; Russ Woolard, Vice chair

**Commissioners Present Virtually:** None

**Commissioners Absent:** None

**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 7:01 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 Attendance Request:** None

**Minutes:** Minutes of the regular commission meeting of 13 March 2024 were approved on a motion by Billigmeier seconded by Baracat-Donovan.

**Library Director:** Report attached.

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

- Fall Fundraising event will be held at the Farm Museum, Oct 6 from 4 to 6PM. Tickets expected to be between \$50 and \$65 to encourage younger attendees. The topic of the presentation will be: Tenant Farmers Revolt in Loudoun County.
- Next Friends board meeting is 9:30AM, Tuesday, 21 May 2024 at TBL.

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

- At the Foundation Board meeting in March the board approved a funding request of \$3,700 from the Library for an exhibit case and hangers to be used in the Donaldson Cabin.
- Keith Troxell has been spearheading a flyer for the Foundation and it is nearing completion.
- Next Foundation board meeting is 12PM, Tuesday 21 May 2024 at TBL.

**Old Business:**

- St James' Cemetery committee – Gressitt/Billigmeier reported there had been no action. Kathleen Hughes is working on grant opportunities. Next meeting has not been set.

- Gressitt reminded everyone to RSVP to the April 29 annual boards and commissions networking event.

**New Business:**

- Hershman listed his talking points for the TBLAC presentation on April 29; noted the annual report is due in July (on the Council Agenda for August).
- Baracat-Donovan reported that the Town had authorized a Commission on Performing Arts and suggested TBLAC work with them. Following discussion Baracat-Donovan agreed to obtain more information on the Commission and invite someone affiliated with the Performing Arts Commission to attend a TBLAC meeting to share information.
- Library Director mentioned outreach potential for outreach activities with the Philippine American community following the Sunday afternoon program.
- Library Director reminded everyone to utilize their Town email for all Town business.

**Councilmanic remarks:** None

**Commission Comments:**

- Woolard noted the Marshall House will soon have a visitors' center with educational displays for which he had researched and written materials.
- Billigmeier noted he always learned something new at these meetings – referencing conversations about the Tenant Farmer revolt and the Philippine Government in exiles association with Belmont.
- Hershman mentioned having attended the Virginia Forum and distributing TBL flyers.

On a motion by Coyer seconded by Woolard, the meeting adjourned at 8:06PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexandra S. Gressitt  
Library Director  
11 April 2024