

**FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
MINUTES OF VIRTUAL MEETING  
JULY 7, 2021**

The Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. on July 7, 2021 via a virtual meeting.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** J. D’Agostino, M. O’Leary, S. Sheppard, C. Smith, K. Spertzel, and S. White.

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** J. Donald, County Liaison

**STAFF PRESENT:** J. Kelly, Director; D. Frank-Rice, IT Coordinator; and L. Tibbs, Recording Secretary.

**CITIZEN REMARKS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**a. Nominating Committee – New Board Member:** Mr. O’Leary noted that there was a lot of work done by members of the Nominating Committee. We received a record number of applicants and it was a remarkably strong group of applicants. He applauded the work of the Nominating Committee who reviewed all of the applications and made a decision to come up with one candidate which was very difficult given the richness of the applicant group.

Ms. D’Agostino inquired whether the Board needs to move into a closed session. Mr. O’Leary advised that the Board does not need to go into a closed session for this.

Due to internet issues with K. Spertzel – Chair of the Nominating Committee, Ms. D’Agostino advised that members of the Nominating Committee reviewed all of the applications. Committee members ranked each application and discussed the top people. As a result of those discussions, members of the Nominating Committee interviewed six applicants. Following the interviews, members of the Nominating Committee entered into further discussion. She noted that there were two applicants that really stood out. She added that it came down to what we were looking to fill on the Board and what type of position was needed and what we could use.

Ms. D’Agostino further noted that there was one candidate that we thought had more experience and would be a better leader for the Board but the other candidate seemed to really show a lot of personal interest in the position and asked a lot of great questions and provided the Board with fantastic answers to questions that were asked. At the end of the day, members of the Nominating Committee decided to go with the person that seemed more vested.

K. Spertzel added that she thinks the nominated candidate brings a skill that none of the other members on the Board currently have. She noted that he is an IT professional and that is not a skill that most members of the Board have. As libraries need to become more and more part of the IT world, the skills that this individual brings to the Board from his professional background would benefit us as a group.

C. Smith noted that the candidate has an MBA from the University of Maryland and a Master of Liberal Arts from Johns Hopkins University. He currently runs his own business. He is highly qualified as far as his academic credentials are concerned. Ms. Smith added that she likes his enthusiasm and his initiative for libraries as a patron. He noted that he and his family walk to the Walkersville Library on a regular basis. As part of his resume, he gave us information on how he connected FCPL to the Good Reads application so if someone likes a book on Good Reads, it links to FCPL's catalog. He took the initiative himself as a Good Reads user to connect FCPL to that application as a resource for patrons. Ms. Smith noted that the candidate was looking at FCPL from a user perspective and a patron.

Ms. D'Agostino added that FCPL has a good IT department now but we don't have IT represented on the Library Board. This will help alleviate the gaps that we need to fill.

S. White stated that she thinks the Nominating Committee has considered all of the right factors. Enthusiasm goes a long way as well as the fact that he is someone that understands the business world and what it takes to run his own business. She noted that someone that is forward thinking with a technology background and understands how it works are good factors to consider.

Mr. O'Leary added that this individual has superb professional qualifications and a personal connection. He noted that over the last year we have all seen how important FCPL's virtual connection to our customers has been. The doors that have been opened over the past year will stay open and that requires a robust understanding and appreciation of what James and his staff are doing and the ability to support all of that and derive an understanding of what is happening back in the machine room.

Ms. Spertzel advised that members of the Nominating Committee would like to nominate Galen Mayfield.

S. White made a motion to accept the nomination of Galen Mayfield; seconded by J. D'Agostino. No further discussion. VOTE: Unanimous.

Mr. O'Leary advised that first thing tomorrow morning he will pass this information along to J. Grossnickle of the County Executive's Office. Ms. Grossnickle has been a wonderful partner in moving the pieces along. The process should be finalized well before the September meeting. Mr. O'Leary also advised that he has spoken to J. Kelly about the orientation process for Mr. Mayfield so he will be fully informed and ready to go. There will be a lot of things to consider

from here on out. He thanked members of the Nominating Committee for bringing in an individual who will be an enormous asset.

S. White noted that she would like to attend the orientation of the new board member so she can meet him and requested Mr. Kelly let her know when the meeting will be held. Mr. Kelly advised that once the nominee has been confirmed by the County Council, he will reach out to the candidate and will also let members of the FCPL Board of Trustees know when the orientation date will be.

C. Smith requested that Mr. Kelly pass along the Board's appreciation to library staff and, especially, J. E-Zelftawy, for reaching out to our community to solicit candidates. She added that the Nominating Committee had a wonderful candidate pool. When we have someone rise to the top, such as Galen Mayfield, it validates the whole process more. There were numerous qualified candidates. Even if someone is not selected one year, they can always reapply. Mr. Kelly stated he will pass this along to his team. He added that it was great to get the word out and it is a testament to the work that the Board and his team are doing together that created such a community interest to serve on the Board.

**BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS:** None

**OTHER CITIZEN REMARKS:** None.

The next FCPL Board of Trustees meeting will be held virtually or in-person at the C. Burr Artz Library – Community Room on September 1, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

J. D'Agostino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by C. Smith. No further discussion. VOTE: Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. O'Leary', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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M. O'Leary, Chair  
Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees