

**FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
JUNE 1, 2016**

The Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. on June 1, 2016 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Greenway, D. Kiser, T. Kutz, G. Laugelli, S. Manny, B. Poteat, and C. Smith.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Council Member Liaison, T. Chmelik.

STAFF PRESENT: D. Batson, Director; J. Kelly, Associate Director; S. McDuff, Associate Director; S. Lauchner, Coordinator/Library Collections; J. Vogel, Youth Services Coordinator; D. Bannwolf, Public Relations Manager; J. El-Zeftawy, Development Officer; B. Hissong, Community Services Coordinator; S. McCoy, Branch Administrator – C. Burr Artz Library; A. Whitney, Branch Administrator – Urbana Regional Library; D. Buker, Virtual Branch Administrator; D. Frank-Rice, System Administrator; E. Bowen, Librarian – C. Burr Artz Library; J. Earp, Administrative Aide-Fiscal; and L. Tibbs, Recording Secretary.

CITIZEN REMARKS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: G. Laugelli made a motion to approve the Minutes of the May 11, 2016 meeting of the FCPL Board of Trustees Meeting; seconded by D. Kiser. No discussion. VOTE: Unanimous.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Ms. Smith noted that this meeting is the last meeting of the FCPL Board of Trustees for Fiscal Year 2016 and her last meeting as Chair. She further noted that this is the last meeting for T. Kutz. Mr. Kutz has served the library and our community as a library trustee since 2006 and was the Chair of the FCPL Board of Trustees for one term (two years). As Mr. Kutz shared with everyone a few months ago, he has seen a lot transpire in his ten years of service through good times and not so good times.

Ms. Smith presented Mr. Kutz with a certificate signed by County Executive Jan Gardner thanking him for his faithful service on the FCPL Board of Trustees. Ms. Smith thereafter presented Mr. Kutz with a historical map of Frederick County dated 1858. Ms. Smith requested that a photograph be taken following the meeting of all members of the FCPL Board of Trustees.

Ms. Smith thanked Jess El-Zeftawy for her assistance in obtaining the gifts for Mr. Kutz.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. FCPL – Update: Mr. Batson welcomed Bob Smart of the Middletown Planning Commission and requested him to provide the FCPL Board of Trustees with some good news about the Middletown Library site. Mr. Smart stated that a site for a new Middletown Library has been in the works for many years. He noted that in the last few months, the library site on Green Street has made a lot of progress. The land was platted out and Mr. Smart noted that he spoke with the County Planner this afternoon and the deed for the acreage for the library is being created so that it can be recorded. Once that happens, the County will own the land within the next few weeks. The site is 3.5 acres on Green Street adjacent to the center of town. The next step will be to push the Middletown Library through the budget process and keep things moving. Mr. Smart noted that although the Middletown Library was recently refurbished, it is too small of a library.

Mr. Batson stated that the Governor signed a Bill on behalf of libraries before the legislature recessed for the summer. This Bill means that in Fiscal Year 2018, FCPL will receive an increase from the State by a substantial amount. There is a formula used to determine the amount of money but at this time we do not know the exact amount.

Thereafter Mr. Batson advised that a new Business Office Manager has been hired. Her name is Amanda Sherwood and she will be starting with FCPL on June 13, 2016.

Mr. Batson reviewed statistics for April, 2016. Circulation was down .5%. May and June are usually very healthy months. He noted that FCPL wants to exceed last year's statistics. Mr. Batson noted that in speaking with his colleagues around the state, they are not having as good of luck as FCPL is. For FCPL to have the statistics it has, is exceptional. Registrations, attendance, and programming are still doing pretty good. He added that when the new Walkersville Library opens, there will be another jump in statistics and the same thing will happen when we open libraries in Myersville and Middletown. He further noted that when the East County Regional Library opens in the New Market/Spring Ridge/Lake Linganore/Mt. Airy area there will be major increases in statistics as well.

Ms. Smith requested a time line on the new libraries that are planned. Mr. Batson stated that the Walkersville Library will be completed at the very end of 2017 or very beginning of 2018 (November/December or January/February). He thereafter advised that in Fiscal Year 2018 the Myersville Library is scheduled for architectural/engineering plans. The Myersville Library will be constructed in Fiscal Year 2019. At this time, the Middletown Library is not in the out-years but it is part of the cycle. Right now, the architectural/engineering plans are scheduled for 2022 and construction of the Middletown Library would be in 2023. The East County Regional is scheduled for 2025/2026. Mr. Batson stated that we don't know how politics and finances will be at that time so everything is subject to change. Communities are the driving force for libraries. He noted that when the Middletown Library project begins, it would be a good time to

put a store-front into the East County Regional area. This would give the members of the community about 5 years or so to demonstrate the need for a library in that area. Mr. Batson also advised that in the long-term there is a new North Frederick City facility planned near the Homewood area. When Rick Weldon was the City Manager, there was a plan to build a park in that area and Mr. Batson stated that he negotiated with Mr. Weldon for a library spot in the park area. It may/may not still be in the plans at this time. This facility would include moving headquarters to that area and gutting the back-of-house area at the current C. Burr Artz Library in order to extend the life of the current building. In the future, it is expected that members of the Ballenger Creek area will be requesting a library in that area. Right now it is a very commercial, industrial area.

C. Greenway inquired how heads are counted and how numbers are calculated to determine how many people walk through the front doors. Mr. Batson noted that FCPL has thermal imaging counters at the C. Burr Artz Library. Donald Frank-Rice added that thermal imaging counters are installed at the larger libraries and the smaller libraries have a laser beam-type counter. The laser beam-type people counter is not quite as accurate especially if you have patrons entering the library side-by-side. He noted that the laser beam-type people counters are being phased out and being replaced with the thermal imaging people counters.

Ms. Greenway further inquired whether Montgomery County utilizes old buildings such as schools for libraries. Mr. Batson replied that he was not aware of that. The last library that Montgomery County built cost the county \$65,000,000 - \$70,000,000. Mr. Batson noted that if FCPL does any changes with the current existing branches, Emmitsburg has to change dramatically or he would recommend reducing the hours from 40 hours to 20 hours. There is a need there for a library but the cost for running the library is not effective. Patrons that utilize the Point of Rocks Library want more hours. The per capita usage at the Point of Rocks Library is phenomenal. In September, 2016, the Point of Rocks Library will be celebrating its tenth anniversary. Ms. Greenway stated that she thought the Point of Rocks Library was self-sufficient with the grant money they receive. Mr. Batson noted that Mrs. Fry gives FCPL \$40,000/year for library expenses. Mrs. Fry has a home that was just sold and he noted that it is his understanding that the funds from the sale of the home will be invested and then FCPL will get an annual sum but it probably won't be \$40,000. FCPL will probably pick up the difference in the cost. The patrons in the Point of Rocks area have demonstrated the need for a library in that area by the usage. Ms. Greenway inquired what the budget is for the Point of Rocks Library. Mr. Batson stated that staffing is a little over \$40,000. FCPL probably augments that library by \$10,000 - \$15,000. When the Point of Rocks Library first opened, the \$40,000 covered staffing and part of the collection but it doesn't cover everything now. In the last ten years, Mrs. Fry has given FCPL \$40,000 to start the library and \$40,000 for ten years. Her contribution is close to \$500,000. Mr. Batson noted that Mrs. Fry was the Secretary to President Richard Nixon and President Gerald Ford. She resigned during President Jimmy Carter's term.

D. Kiser thanked Mr. Batson for including the volunteer hours in the statistics. Ms. Greenway inquired about the doubling of volunteers from 30 to 60 at the C. Burr Artz Library from February to March. Mr. Batson stated that was due to an event in The Maryland Room.

b. Budget/CIP – Update: Mr. Batson noted that the budget and CIP have been finalized. Sheila McDuff has notified Branch Administrators about increasing part-time staff from 17.5 hours to 19 hours. In July, staff will be making preparations to increase the open hours of the libraries. Ms. McDuff noted that FCPL has already advertised for the three additional Library Associate positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Election of Officers: Ms. Smith advised that the FCPL Board of Trustees has not received a written sign-off on the appointment of the new Board Members but it will happen soon.

C. Greenway, Chair of the Nominating Committee, stated that committee assignments will be done at the September Board Meeting since we will have a brand new Board Member at that time. Ms. Greenway noted that George Laugelli will be Chair of the FCPL Board of Trustees. Thereafter, Ms. Greenway made a recommendation that Candy Greenway serve as Vice-Chair and Debbie Kiser serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Ms. Smith asked if Ms. Greenway was putting her recommendation forward as a motion and C. Greenway responded that her recommendation is the motion; seconded by S. Manny. VOTE: Unanimous.

b. Brand Programming Priorities: Mr. Kelly noted that back in May there was an article in The Frederick News-Post about home-school programs at the Middletown Library; in particular STEM programs. That article was passed around and some questions arose. He noted that he and Sheila McDuff will be discussing how programs are developed and what guidance there is for staff and whether FCPL received additional funding for programming. He stated that in this past year's budget, FCPL did receive additional funding for programming. The funding will continue in this coming year's budget. Ms. Greenway inquired whether the funding that was received was additional funding for programs to facilitate home-schooled children. Mr. Kelly advised that County Executive, Jan Gardner, asked if FCPL had programming needs and she committed funds for additional programming. The additional funds that were received were for programming in general not specifically for home-school programs. The funding increase was the first increase in several years for programming. He noted that in terms of guidance given to staff, the FCPL Board of Trustees saw some of it when the Strategic Plan was approved at last month's meeting. The way we are trying to get staff thinking is, as a system, we will commit to system-wide priorities. What that will look like locally will depend on the needs of the community. One example is the home-school programs at Middletown Library. That is a very active community and a lot of people attend these programs. He noted that it is a good problem that FCPL has a lot of people attending programs. He thereafter stated that another branch may not have the need for home-school programs so that branch may provide different programming. We give staff the flexibility to develop programming that is tailored to their local community needs and provide life-long learning. He added that what is being worked on currently is a model where we have a defined community need, engaged community and, ideally, have staff interests and backgrounds to provide programming for that interest or actively recruit partners in the community that can

teach a particular program. At this time, he noted that there are some branches throughout the system that are working under this model but there are some others that are behind the curve and will be coming on board with it. Program development takes some time. Mr. Kelly noted that if there is a program that is being presented and patrons are not attending but staff likes to do the program, this is a waste of staff time and resources, however, he noted that this happens very infrequently at FCPL. He added that it has been his experience that FCPL staff like to try new things and take risks and develop programming wherever it is needed. At the Middletown Library, STEM programming was provided because of the need in the community. It is better to provide programming that the community is asking for rather than offer an alternate program and have no one show up. There will be a time when those numbers may drop and staff will move on to the next program. Mr. Kelly stated that the final point that he wants to make is that for FCPL success is measured by attendance at the programs and by staff that are adaptable and willing to take risks. We want to enable them to have that flexibility and give staff the support in their efforts.

Ms. McDuff spoke about the specific issue regarding the Middletown Library. She noted that administration has heard infrequently from the Middletown community about the concern of noise level, however, we do hear this about every branch in the library system. As libraries evolve and change, they become more of a community center and there are times when the libraries have events and the noise level is not what some patrons may expect it to be. It is a typical concern that staff does take seriously. Staff tries to find ways to accommodate the needs of the community. Ms. McDuff added that one of things we have been trying to do as a system is to have fewer programs with higher attendance. Unfortunately, for the Middletown and Walkersville libraries this model doesn't work because they are such small libraries. Both of these communities are very large compared to the size of the library branch in their community and this is why there are larger facilities planned in the CIP for those areas. It is nearly impossible to keep the noise down in those situations at the smaller branches. That being said, recently most of the feedback staff has received is from the same concerned patron and Robin Bowers, Branch Administrator of the Walkersville and Middletown Libraries, will be speaking to that person individually to try and resolve that specific issue. Ms. Bowers is also working with her staff to come up with a new model for home-school programming. What they tried to do was have a "one stop shop" so that all of the kids in the family have something to do and that was very popular and worked well but it ended up overwhelming the library. During the summer, the home-school programming will not be offered. In the Fall when staff go back to offering some specific home-school programming, staff will design things a little differently to try and avoid the very large crowds. FCPL staff always listens to all of the feedback. Ms. McDuff stated that she sees all of the feedback and works with Branch Administrators to make sure staff is addressing the problems as much as possible to balance the needs of the community.

G. Laugelli stated that he has two separate issues. The first thing he mentioned was the article in the newspaper left the impression that a particular staff person was using the library resources to help her solve her situation and, in turn, help a lot of other people but the article had the air that because the staff person was from the community that she could do this type of programming at the library and make everyone happy. The other thing that surprised him was more on the press

side. He noted that he has never worked in an organization where central command was not notified when a reporter was writing stories. He inquired whether FCPL has a policy regarding this and added that he believes that if the article was brought into context about STEM programming, the article would have been clearer. He again inquired if FCPL has a policy regarding a reporter that comes to a library and wants to speak to an employee. Mr. Batson stated that there is a very clear policy. Staff should direct reporters to the Director, Darrell Batson, or Donna Bannwolf, Public Relations Manager. Mr. Batson noted that in the case of the article regarding Middletown Library, the policy was not followed. He stated that this does not mean that staff should not speak to the reporter but the reporter should be referred to administration so issues can be clarified. This policy has been in effect since Elizabeth Cromwell worked at FCPL. Mr. Batson stated that there are times when policies are not followed and when administration becomes aware of policies not being followed, appropriate responses will be taken. Ms. Greenway inquired about the word "responses". Mr. Batson stated that he used the word "responses" because sometimes it is ignorance or a new employee. If it is an employee that has violated policies on a regular basis, then action would be taken but administration needs to find out what the situation is to see if it was just out of ignorance, misunderstanding or excitement. If the latter is the case, then a "response" is needed and a correction needs to be done and we need to provide better training. Mr. Batson stated that this policy will be brought up again with staff. Administration regularly holds management meetings and this will be discussed.

Ms. Greenway inquired whether Mr. Batson had read the article that appeared in the newspaper. Mr. Batson stated that he did know about the article until everyone started speaking about it. Mr. Kelly stated that he did read the article and he did not think the article was negative but he agrees that staff need to know that when they are contacted by the media that they need to let administration know. We could have possibly let the reporter know that while we know this does not look like a library program, it is a library program and why the program is important.

Ms. Greenway inquired whether a staff member can develop any program that she sees fit in her community and does not need to get that program approved by administration. Mr. Batson stated the Branch Administrator approves programming. Ms. McDuff also noted that FCPL has Programming Coordinators, Janet Vogel and Bryan Hissong. As programming is planned, they do a review as part of the process of Bookmarks. Branch staff meets and they decide what programming they are going to do to meet community needs. Staff enters the programming into the software and the Programming Coordinators thereafter review it and raise any concerns, if needed. Ms. Greenway stated that she assumed that programming was managed at the macro level so there was no duplication. She stated that she didn't realize that programming was done bottom – up rather than top – down. Mr. Kelly responded that the programming has to be at the branch level because they are the people on the front lines and know what the community needs. Ms. Greenway inquired if this is the case for children's programming as well. Mr. Kelly stated that it is. Ms. McDuff added that there are standard programs. There are story times and certain areas that all branches touch upon but as far as the specifics are concerned, it is up to each branch.

Mr. Laugelli stated that it seems to him that in that process there should be something that other

people could look at to see what programming is being proposed at the branches. Mr. Batson stated that is the job of the Program Coordinators.

Ms. Smith inquired whether the home-school programs are advertised in Bookmarks. Ms. McDuff stated that the programs are publicly announced to everyone. Ms. Smith added that everyone is welcome to attend; not just home-schooled children. Ms. McDuff stated that the reason the program is aimed at home-schoolers is because of the need in the community but also the timing. Most of the other children are in public schools at that time. Ms. Smith noted that this was the concern; that the program was a targeted program. Ms. Smith added that based on the model explained by James Kelly there is a community need and the program certainly engages participants and interests of staff so this meets the model of the strategic plan. Ms. Smith stated that the article itself was not negative but the online comments were negative. She inquired whether FCPL has a policy to respond in any way to the comments. Mr. Batson stated that as a general rule, FCPL does not respond to the comments. Unless staff sees a distinct thread that can be verified, many times the responses are philosophical or political beliefs and that is difficult to address.

Ms. Poteat stated that the reporter of the subject article is fairly new to The Frederick News-Post and reporting on education. She made the suggestion to educate the reporter by inviting him for a tour of the libraries and the programs so that he has context. The next time the reporter writes an article it would be written with a basis of understanding. Mr. Batson stated that he speaks with a lot of new reporters. Some reporters are more than willing to talk but others feel there must be a professional separation. The best person to do that would be Donna Bannwolf because she is in FCPL's Public Relations Department and has a relationship with The Frederick News-Post.

Ms. Greenway stated that there were only three comments written in response to the article and two of the comments were from people that said they could not get to the new book section; people are doing crafts at every single table and none of the patrons are being served. Ms. Greenway stated that it seems to her that those patrons should take priority. She added that if she would go to the library and want to look at the new book section, she should have priority. Mr. Batson inquired whether the patron went to staff to explain that they could not get to the new book section. Ms. Greenway replied that the comments did not say one way or the other. The comment just said that all the tables were being used for crafts. Mr. Batson stated that the Middletown Library is a small facility and when someone says that all the tables are full and being used for crafts, that is probably true because there are only two tables. Mr. Batson advised that staff has spoken to the Branch Administrator about making some changes. When you are dealing with a small facility, there is no way you can win.

Ms. Greenway inquired as to when FCPL started teaching open classes in libraries. Ms. Greenway noted that a library is supposed to be a place where someone can go and read a book. Mr. Batson stated that was the case 30 years ago. Certain parts of libraries are that way but other parts of the libraries are not. It is the evolution of libraries. Currently, FCPL has hundreds of PCs and patrons sit at the PCs instead of reading books. Things have changed and are not the

same as it used to be. Ms. Greenway stated that when people are working on a computer, they are not talking. She added that she is talking about holding a class at the library. Mr. Batson stated that Visitation Academy brings children into FCPL and staff holds classes for them. Public schools bring children to FCPL for classes. FCPL has worked with the educational system forever. Mr. Laugelli added that if the facility does not have a classroom, that is the problem. Mr. Batson stated that not having a classroom is the problem. Mr. Batson added that when the smaller libraries have story hours and the children are sitting around, patrons have difficulty maneuvering through the library. Ms. Greenway noted that she agrees with the patrons. Ms. Greenway stated that the kids didn't pay the taxes to build libraries and she did. Mr. Batson noted that the parents that paid the taxes bring their children to libraries also. FCPL serves a broad range of people and when there are under-sized libraries, there will continually be problems whether it is a program that some agree with or not. Ms. Greenway stated that if a parent chooses to home-school their child that is their business. She added that it is her opinion that County assets should not be used to accommodate home-schooled children.

Bob Smart indicated that it is very difficult to get to the new book section when there are programs going on at the Middletown Library. Ms. Kiser inquired of Mr. Smart whether this is happening every day. Mr. Smart replied that he has not been at the Middletown Library in the afternoon when there is not a large group working on some kind of project. Ms. McDuff advised that the Middletown Library has home-school programs twice a week at the Middletown Library. She added that the Middletown Library has carved out a quiet time in the afternoon where there is no programming. Ms. Greenway stated that the quiet time is from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mr. Laugelli inquired as to how long the classes are. Ms. McDuff stated that she believes the programs are one hour in length, however, once the students are at the library, they stay as long as they want. Mr. Batson stated that FCPL can control the programming but staff cannot control the people going in and out of the library because by State law patrons are free to come and go from the library. If parents bring their children to the library to do homework, etc., we cannot block that.

Ms. Greenway inquired whether a staff member is teaching the class in question at the Middletown Library. Ms. McDuff stated that it is a program and she wouldn't classify it as a class. The programs are provided to everyone and STEM is one of many FCPL programs. Ms. Greenway then stated that a library staff member is teaching the program. Ms. McDuff further noted that FCPL staff members present most of the programs at our libraries. Mr. Laugelli stated that the staff member has a child that is home-schooled and the article was leaning that way. Ms. McDuff noted that FCPL absolutely taps into the knowledge of our staff members when someone has experience in certain areas. Ms. Smith stated that part of the perception by some members of the FCPL Board of Trustees is that there was a self-serving motivation in the program held at Middletown Library. Mr. Batson advised that staff will look into it further and get back to members of the FCPL Board of Trustees. Ms. Greenway added that the article further points out that the participants come from all over including outside of Frederick County. Ms. Greenway further stated that FCPL is now facilitating people that don't pay taxes in Frederick County. Mr. Batson stated that there is a reciprocal borrowing agreement between every library in the State of Maryland. Ms. McDuff stated that this is not unique to the Middletown Library. FCPL provides

programs for home-schoolers in most of its branches. It just so happens that there is a huge home-school population in Middletown and the programs are very popular and they fill the library.

Ms. Greenway further stated that the article states that in December the staff member will offer an art history program on Mondays. Mr. Batson noted it is not unusual for staff members to provide programs in their areas of expertise. Staff members provide all sorts of programs for children, adults, and senior citizens. Mr. Batson reiterated that the problem is you have a large population of home-schoolers that are obstructing other people from using the library. The problem is not that staff is providing programs that people are attending. A balance is needed between offering programs that the community uses and still making the library accessible to everyone in the community. Ms. Greenway added that the article states the program was specifically designed for students who are home-schooled. Mr. Batson stated that no one is turned away and anyone can attend. Ms. Manny suggested that possibly staff could offer the same program in an evening to offset the crowded situation. Ms. McDuff stated that similar programs are offered later in the day as well. Mr. Kelly noted that the same program can be marketed and branded in several different ways. He noted that a home-school program that is offered during the week may be offered on Saturdays but marketed differently.

Mr. Laugelli stated that when a newspaper prints an article that creates a public impression, you want that impression to reflect the library to the best extent possible. The root goes back that staff did not refer the reporter to administration to give the reporter a bigger picture like everyone has heard this evening. Ms. McDuff stated that in all fairness to staff, it was the staff's impression that this was just a favorable article about this program. She added that no one ever knows the angle that a reporter is going to end up writing in the article. Staff did not know that the article was going to be geared so much to the person that was running the program. Even if someone in administration had spoken to the reporter, we may not have known until the article appeared in print, the angle that the reporter decided to take on it.

Ms. Smith added that regardless of who is giving the program, it is her opinion that the article did present a very popular, well-attended program that is happening at Middletown Library and that is a good thing. She noted that she appreciates the presentation about programming tonight by James Kelly and Sheila McDuff and how it relates to the strategic plan and our goals. Ms. Smith said she thinks we need to find out if it is just one person that is having difficulty with this or are there other patrons that feel the same way. Ms. McDuff stated that it is not just one patron but there is one that is more vocal than others. She further added that there is a need for a bigger branch library because there is so much demand in that community. Ms. Greenway stated that FCPL could be alienating potential donors to the new library, if that trend continues. She stated that if it was her she would wonder why she would want to donate to the library just so they can hold bigger classes. Mr. Batson stated that on the other hand we could be alienating the parents that bring their children to the library and they could be donors as well.

Mr. Laugelli stated that he wanted to make it clear that the issue he was concerned about is not home-schoolers per se but just the aspect regarding any policies involved.

c. Upcoming Events: Freedom Reads and Michael Twitty: Bryan Hissong stated that he is very excited to speak this evening about some interesting and exciting programs that are coming up. The first program involves a fellow by the name of Michael Twitty. Mr. Hissong stated that as he was developing the program, he struggled to describe Michael. Michael Twitty wears a lot of hats. Mr. Twitty is a historian, a published author, a blogger, a chef, an activist (hence the term cheftivist) and his list of accomplishments are just as numerous. B. Hissong instructed members of the FCPL Board of Trustees to go to Page 5 of Bookmarks where they will see a list of Michael Twitty's achievements which have been highlighted. Michael Twitty has spoken at Yale and Oxford Universities. He has appeared on an episode of Bizarre Foods with Andrew Zimmern. He has contributed articles to Ebony Magazine, the Guardian and on NPR.org. and most recently, a TED 2016 fellow and speaker. Mr. Hissong noted that there was a very nice article in The Washington Post back in February, 2016 that was an exploration of Michael Twitty and the things that he does. B. Hissong stated that Mary Mannix, Manager of The Maryland Room, came to him and stated that she knows Michael Twitty. She met him a few years ago and asked about Michael Twitty coming to do a genealogy class for The Maryland Room. Once staff started talking about it, it was decided to see if Mr. Twitty would do two programs. Michael Twitty specializes in two unique areas. He focuses on history but he also focuses on cuisine. Mr. Hissong added that FCPL was able to catch this rising star and get him to come to Frederick to do two interesting programs.

The first program is called The Cooking Gene and it is going to be based on Michael Twitty's book that will be published in December. The best way to describe it is a way to experience history through food and culture. Michael Twitty's argument is that often times when written records are lost, one of the best ways we can understand history is through the oral traditions and recipes that are handed down from family to family. It is a way of understanding history and a way of understanding culture. Mr. Hissong stated that one of the biggest mistakes that people make is ignoring the impact of one particular culture on the development and transition of another. Michael Twitty's goal in his presentation on Friday, June 3, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Urbana Regional Library is to talk about cuisine and a historical journey using food. On Saturday, June 4, 2016, Michael Twitty will be at the C. Burr Artz Library from 11:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. and he will give folks a crash course on genealogy. The limit for the class was 40 people and the class is already at capacity. Mr. Twitty will speak about using electronic devices that are at everyone's disposal in order to trace a person's history. And, in particular, he will speak about tracing history back to Africa which can be very difficult and frustrating for folks because often written records don't exist.

Mr. Hissong thereafter reviewed the second initiative which is called Freedom Reads. This is a partnership between FCPL and Flying Dog Brewery. While this sounds like an unusual partnership, in this particular instance, we actually have a lot in common. This is because Flying Dog Brewery is establishing a non-profit initiative called The First Amendment Society focusing on the First Amendment and freedom of speech. FCPL staff started discussions with the folks at Flying Dog Brewery and ended up partnering with them by offering a book club that is focusing on the First Amendment and freedom of speech. The program is called Freedom Reads. The

first program will be held on June 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at the Flying Dog Brewery. This will not be the traditional book club with folks sitting around a table and talking about a particular book. This event will take place in the Flying Dog Brewery Tasting Room. The events are going to focus on speakers. There will be a book that ties into the general theme but the emphasis is on the speakers: 1) Garrett Epps, Contributing Editor to the Atlantic monthly magazine. He is also the author of *American Epic*, a very well regarded non-fiction exploration of the Constitution. He will be speaking about the U.S. Constitution and the First Amendment. Mr. Epps will be appearing on Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.; 2) Michelle Butler will speak about Harry Potter. This also goes back to the issue of freedom of speech. A lot of people have problems with Harry Potter. In some instances, Harry Potter is a book that some folks don't want their kids to read. She will speak about how this book has been often challenged but that it is an excellent piece of literature and how challenging literature affects our freedom of speech and the First Amendment. She will be appearing at the Flying Dog Brewery on July 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.; and 3) Ronald Collins is a law professor associated with Washington University. He clerked for former Supreme Court Justice Warren Burger. He wrote a few books including a non-fiction biography on Lenny Bruce and the Beat Authors of the 1950s focusing on Allen Ginsberg. Mr. Hissong stated that FCPL is very excited about both of these upcoming programs.

Ms. Greenway inquired whether the second program that was discussed will be held at a brewery. Mr. Hissong stated that it will be held in the Tasting Room of the Flying Dog Brewery. Ms. Greenway further inquired whether that room is separate from where people are going in and drinking. Mr. Hissong stated it is not. He added that the goal is to have a very casual, laid back discussion where the patrons will listen to the speaker. Folks do have to be 21 in order to get into the Tasting Room. This program is designed specifically for adults and, in particular, it is geared for millennials (young/new adults). Ms. Greenway further stated that if she walks into this room with a friend and wants to just sit and drink a beer, that she would have to sit and listen to this speaker whether she wanted to or not and wanted to know if this was the idea. Ms. Manny inquired whether a person will need a ticket to get into the tasting area. Mr. Hissong stated that no tickets are needed. Ms. Greenway added that there is no way to opt out of it if you walk in and want to drink a beer. Ms. Smith noted that it is no different than walking into a bar and there is a loud band playing; it is your choice to stay or leave. Ms. Greenway responded by stating that she would know if there is going to be a band playing at a bar. Mr. Batson stated FCPL is doing this program in conjunction with Flying Dog Brewery. FCPL is not imposing this on them. The Flying Dog Brewery is promoting this program at its own bar. Mr. Laugelli stated that his only concern is that the Flying Dog Brewery may have their own business agenda behind all this and that FCPL is being tied to their agenda indirectly. Mr. Batson replied that most businesses that FCPL has a relationship with have their own agenda. Mr. Hissong stated that FCPL has its own agenda. Once the attendees see how cool the library is by having a book club at a bar, they might stop by the library. Ms. Smith added that it ties in because the authors will be discussing banned book themes.

Thereafter, Ms. Greenway stated that she tried to raise money for the Friends of Frederick County Public Libraries and put a cute thing at the Seventh Street Liquor Store and somebody on the FCPL Board of Trustees called Mr. Batson up and said that it was inappropriate to be raising

money for the library in a liquor store. She added that she was making a lot of money at that location and she had to take it out. She further stated that now FCPL is condoning this and partnering with bars. Mr. Batson replied that there was a different library board at that time. She noted that is not the point. Mr. Batson stated that he must work for the FCPL Board of Trustees and if the FCPL Board of Trustees said they didn't want something at a liquor store that was the point. Ms. Greenway inquired what would happen if she said she doesn't want this program. Mr. Batson replied that it would be put up for a vote before the FCPL Board of Trustees. Ms. Greenway stated that this program was not brought before the FCPL Board of Trustees to vote on. The information was just provided to us about a program in place. Ms. Smith stated that the theme is centering around banned books. Ms. Greenway wanted to know what that has to do with doing a library program at a bar. Ms. Smith stated that she feels it is an offering to the public which will spark a lot of interest.

OLD BUSINESS:

a. Logo: Mr. Kelly noted that at the last meeting, he was instructed to speak with staff about selecting FCPL's logo. He stated that he has had an opportunity to do that. Mr. Kelly added that he had in-person face-to-face meetings with staff at every library branch. Some folks that could not make the meetings e-mailed their logo selection to him. He thereafter advised members of the FCPL Board of Trustees that by a 2 to 1 margin, staff favored the more traditional mark of the two. It would be the recommendation of staff to go with Logo #1. Mr. Kelly requested the approval of the FCPL Board of Trustees. Members of the FCPL Board of Trustees noted they do not need to vote on the selection by staff since the decision was being left up to the staff as to which logo would be chosen.

Mr. Batson stated that staff was spoken to and staff preferred Logo #1 over Logo #2 so that is the logo that FCPL will proceed with. Ms. Smith inquired as to when we will start seeing the new logo rolled out. Mr. Kelly stated that the next step would be to contact the logo firm and let them know which logo was chosen. Ms. Smith further inquired whether there will be some sort of public relations thing to let people know that FCPL is changing our logo. Mr. Batson stated that there will be in the future as things progress.

Ms. Poteat noted that she was absent during last month's meeting but was wondering if the name of the color could be changed from blood orange. Mr. Batson stated that the color name is not advertised. Ms. Poteat stated the color name is a negative connotation. Mr. Batson added that the color name is what is on the palette but that will not be advertised.

BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: Ms. Poteat, on behalf of the FCPL Board of Trustees, thanked C. Smith for her two year term as Chair of the FCPL Board of Trustees.


OTHER CITIZEN REMARKS: None.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at the C. Burr Artz

Library – 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD.

C. Greenway made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by G. Laugelli. No discussion.
VOTE: Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.



George Laugelli, Chair
Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees