

**FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARIES BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF MEETING
JANUARY 3, 2018**

The Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees Meeting convened at 7:00 p.m. on January 3, 2018 at the C. Burr Artz Library, Frederick, Maryland.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: K. Kane, D. Kiser G. Laugelli, S. Manny, B. Poteat, and C. Smith

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: C. Greenway and 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; B. Hissong, Community Services Coordinator; J. El-Zeftawy, Development Officer; A. Sherwood, Finance/Office Manager; K. Martinez, Communications Manager; J. Marshall, Systems Manager; C. Hall, Branch Administrator – C. Burr Artz Library; R. Frecker, Branch Administrator – Middletown/Walkersville Libraries; T. Lebherz, Branch Administrator – Brunswick Library; A. Whitney, Branch Administrator – Urbana Regional Library; E. Dingle, Branch Administrator – Thurmont/Emmitsburg Libraries; D. Buker, Virtual Branch Administrator; D. Gee, Assistant Branch Administrator – Urbana Regional Library; and L. Tibbs, Recording Secretary.

CITIZEN REMARKS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: D. Kiser made a motion to approve the Minutes of the November 1, 2017 FCPL Board of Trustees Meeting; seconded by S. Manny. No further discussion. VOTE: Unanimous.

CHAIR'S REPORT: Mr. Laugelli stated that tonight's meeting not only marks the beginning of a new year but also the beginning of a new era in library leadership. Darrell Batson is retiring after 20 years as the Library Director. He is one of four individuals to occupy that position in eighty years. Since this is Mr. Batson's last board meeting, the Board would like to use this occasion to enter into the record a brief summary of Mr. Batson's many accomplishments.

Mr. Laugelli noted that before the summary he would like to take care of a bit of new business. Members of the FCPL Board of Trustees met in December, 2017 and appointed James Kelly, the current Associate Director of Operations, as Interim Director until such time as a new Director is appointed. The search for a new Director is actively underway and the Board expects to have further announcements in a few months.

Thereafter, Mr. Laugelli stated that when Mr. Batson was hired 20 years ago, his primary mandate from the Board was to build libraries and that he did (Thurmont, Urbana, and Brunswick). There is currently a new branch under construction in Walkersville that is scheduled to open in March, 2018. A new library in Myersville is in the advance stages of planning. There are also plans for a new library in the eastern part of the county as well as a new Middletown Library. This alone makes Darrell Batson's tenure quite remarkable. Beyond that, Darrell shepherded the library system through the birth of the Internet era. Even given Darrell's admitted reluctance to embrace new technology, that didn't stop him from encouraging staff to keep the library system growing and changing with the times. During the last 20 years, FCPL's budget has grown 3-fold, circulation has increased 2 ½-fold and the collection has grown to over 600,000 items. All of this was accomplished while working with two completely different forms of County government. This is a testament to Mr. Batson's political skills and how he works with many different groups to advance the interests of the library. During his tenure, the involvement in the community and funding of library programs has exploded. Programs offered by the library went from 1,000 to over 6,000 with attendance at those programs increasing 7-fold to over 200,000 patrons per year.

Mr. Laugelli noted that looking back over the years the thing that impressed him the most is the ability of Darrell Batson to find top notch people to work in Frederick County. He noted that he has been on the Library Board for almost 8 years and he has seen a complete turn-over in senior staff. Mr. Batson was able to recruit at a very high level which not only speaks to his leadership but also to the ongoing successes that have earned this library system a high reputation throughout the State and made it a place where people want to work.

Mr. Laugelli stated that as Darrell Batson rides off into the sunset, the Board would like to formally thank him for all that he has done and wish him the very best in whatever new adventures come his way. Congratulations!

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

a. FCPL – Update: Mr. Batson thanked members of the FCPL Board of Trustees for their trust in allowing him to help move the library system forward. He noted that he has worked with a lot of board members and, as a general rule, the members have been extremely supportive of FCPL growing physically as well as service-wise. Mr. Batson noted that he has always worked by the motto to hire the best people possible especially when it comes to technology because that is not his cup of tea. Mr. Batson thereafter thanked staff and noted that they are great. He noted that some staff members have been with him for a long, long time. He recalled a dinner one night during the MLA Conference in Ocean City when Amy Whitney and Erin Dingle pulled him aside and asked to speak with him. He noted that he appreciated the fact that his upper level management staff felt comfortable enough that they could come and talk to him like that and express their views, concerns and plans. FCPL has a really good staff and he once again thanked all staff.

Mr. Batson thereafter announced that Amanda Sherwood, head of FCPL's Finance Department, will be leaving FCPL to go to the Frederick County Health Department to manage their finance department. Their finance department is far more complex than FCPL's finance department. Mr. Batson stated that he never wants to stand in anyone's way as they grow. FCPL will be losing Amanda Sherwood on January 13th. Mr. Batson thanked Amanda Sherwood for the time she has given to FCPL. Mr. Batson thereafter noted that Julie Earp will be designated as the "Interim" for that department and she is extremely competent. Amanda Sherwood's job will be posted shortly.

Mr. Batson noted that FCPL also lost Kathie Roemer at the end of December. Kathie had worked for FCPL over 30 years and was wonderful. He noted that he was sorry to see Kathie go.

Thereafter, Mr. Batson reviewed statistics. He noted that statistics are fantastic. Mr. Batson stated that although weather plays a big part in statistics, staff has done a brilliant job in not only material selection, databases, websites, programs, etc. For the first five months of the year, circulation was up 3.5%, attendance was up 18%, registrations were up 6%, wi-fi usage was up 22%, programs were up by 8.6% and program attendance was up by 26%. Adult programming was up 178% and attendance at adult programs was up by 30%.

Mr. Batson noted that he just received a proposal to increase the hours of the STEM Lab through volunteers so if there are any volunteers that would like to work in the STEM Lab, please contact FCPL staff.

In general, staff are doing a brilliant job in keeping current on all of the new technology out there.

b. CIP/Budget – Update: Mr. Batson noted that staff has one more budget meeting before staff will meet with the FCPL Board of Trustees Finance Committee. The budget will be completed before Amanda leaves FCPL and it will be ready to be presented to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Batson noted that there a lot of things that we wanted to do at our branch locations such as furniture, offices, etc. and because we were so careful in the first part of this year, this will allow us to do a lot of refurbishment and updating during the latter part of this fiscal year. And, as a result, this will help with next year's budget. Some of the branches will receive some much-needed upgrades.

Staff just met with County staff regarding future construction. Everything was in a positive mode and they understand about the Walkersville Library opening in March, the proposed Myersville and Middletown libraries, etc., however, there is a slight chance that the East County Regional Library may be pushed out a bit. FCPL is currently in a very active building program and Mr. Batson noted that during the 20 years he has been here, there have been 7 buildings built during that time. He noted that although we really want the East County Regional Library and will campaign hard for it, it needs to be realistically looked at and we need to know that it may be

put off a bit. Staff will continue to work with the community and the County Planning and Budget Departments in the future.

Mr. Batson thereafter stated that James Kelly will be presenting the Budget at the February Board Meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

a. Financial Report: Ms. Sherwood stated that this is a bittersweet moment for her. She noted that she is excited for the new opportunity but working for the library has been amazing. She thanked everyone involved in the library system and noted it has been a pleasure working for the library.

Thereafter, Ms. Sherwood reviewed the Financial Statement that is accurate through November 30, 2017. FCPL's revenue is at 23% and expenditures are at about 34%. Since we are about five months into the fiscal year, it would be expected that expenditures would be at about 40% so we are actually under budget for the period.

Ms. Sherwood thereafter reviewed the grants/contributions report through November 30, 2017. FCPL has been awarded almost \$29,000 in grants. As of November 30, 2017, there is approximately \$750,000 in grants that are still open. FCPL received approximately \$76,000 in individual gifts and FCPL received a little over \$104,000 in other revenue. All-in-all, she noted that FCPL has approximately \$209,000 in grants/contributions through November 30, 2017.

b. Construction Update: Ms. McDuff noted that the grand opening for the Walkersville Library is Saturday, March 10, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Construction is slightly behind but we are confident that we will be ready to go on March 10th. Thereafter, Ms. McDuff displayed drone photos of the Walkersville Library construction site from July, September and October. She also displayed some interior/exterior photos that were taken today (January 3, 2018) of the site. All of the painting has been done. Most of the tile floors have been installed as well as all of the woodworking. Carpet should be delivered soon. Once the HVAC is completed, the ceiling tiles can be put in place. Everything is coming along and we plan to be in the building and ready for the grand opening on March 10th.

Thereafter, Ms. McDuff noted that currently the plans for the Myersville Library are at 60% and staff are reviewing the plans and giving feedback to the County. Staff met with members from the Town of Myersville. There is a Memorandum of Understanding that needs to be drafted between the County and the Town of Myersville. The County's Legal Department is working on the Memorandum of Understanding. Everything is still on schedule. It is hoped that the bid for construction will go out in April, 2018.

Mr. Laugelli inquired whether the Walkersville Library is currently under roof and not subject to the weather. Ms. McDuff stated that the Walkersville Library is completely under roof. She

noted that any areas that may have been open due to lack of windows have been completely sealed so no weather can get inside.

c. Capture the Flag: Mr. Marshall stated that Capture the Flag is an ethical computer coding and cryptography competition. Students competed against each other to solve brain teasers and complex computer security problems. This competition was done in partnership with Carroll County Library System and the Mid-Atlantic Gigabit Innovation Collaboratory, Inc. (better known as MAGIC, Inc.). They are an outfit that specializes in doing this sort of competition. This was the fourth event that they held and it was the first one that they opened up to participants outside of Carroll County Library. FCPL was very excited to get involved with this. Mr. Marshall stated that everything went very well. There were a few hiccups during the competition but nothing major that couldn't be handled. Mr. Marshall thanked his team (Derek Buker, who is here this evening, was part of the team, as well as the rest of the Systems Department from FCPL).

The competition was held on Saturday, November 4, 2017. There were 150 participants across six locations that were involved in the competition. There were five locations in Maryland of which FCPL was one and there was one location in North Carolina. There were two teams that completed all of the challenges that they were presented with. The organizers of the competition did not expect anyone to complete the challenges. The organizers of the competition stated that next year they will need to re-think the challenges because apparently there are people that are in the competition that are breezing through everything.

The competition was broadcasted live on YouTube from the Carroll County Media Center. FCPL set up a system whereby we streamed a video to Carroll County and they incorporated the view of FCPL's STEM Lab into their broadcast. It worked out very well. Thereafter, Mr. Marshall displayed some photos from the competition.

FCPL had 17 competitors and they were divided into 7 teams. FCPL had room to register up to 20 but, unfortunately, there were some no-shows but it was a healthy turn-out for our first time doing this competition. FCPL had a wide range of ages in the competition. There were some middle school students up through college students participating in the competition. There were experienced competitors alongside first-time competitors.

Mr. Marshall noted that he and his staff had to handle questions from the expert competitors who were worried about how quickly their answers were submitted to those competitors who were there for the first time that had to be walked through how to log-in to different things such as how to access the problems that they had and how to really get started. He added that he thinks that everyone that competed in the competition came away with an enriching and satisfactory experience. We received positive feedback from all of the students that participated no matter what their age group was.

Mr. Marshall stated that one of the teams from FCPL was one of the two teams that completed all of the challenges. They ended up in second place because they happened to not finish their

challenges as quickly as another team from Carroll County. It was very exciting for FCPL to know that we had a team that successfully completed all of the challenges in such a rapid succession and that they were in competition for first place.

Mr. Marshall noted that once the team from FCPL completed all of their challenges, they started mentoring the younger students that were there which was really nice to see. All competitors did receive t-shirts and swag bags courtesy of MAGIC, Inc.

Mr. Marshall noted that the next competition will be held on April 21, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. FCPL will host teams in April and possibly double the amount of competitors. Registration is through MAGIC, Inc. Registration opens March, 2018. All members of a team must register and registrants must include their team name on the registration form. There is no fee to enter. If anyone has any questions, Mr. Marshall suggested that they reach out to him at FCPL or contact Amy Rupp, who is the Executive Director at MAGIC, Inc.

Ms. Smith inquired as to what type of problems were asked to be solved during the competition. Mr. Marshall stated that it is difficult to give a simple example of some of the problems. One example, however, is that once a competitor sat down and opened a folder on their computer, they were presented with a photograph of a Stegosaurus. The only clue that they will have is that the name of it will have been changed from Stegosaurus to Stegnosaurus. From there they have to figure out where the flag is. The flag is an encoded message that they have to find somewhere in the problem. Mr. Marshall noted that in this case in changing the name from Stegosaurus to Stegnosaurus should be enough for IT or security-minded people to realize that steganography is the method of hiding messages within photographs. They should know that the flag is somewhere in that photograph and it is up to them to find it. The flag could be visually hidden in the photograph where they would have to use software to zoom in on the photograph or it could be hidden in the data that the computer uses to create that photograph. In that case, they may have to go into a tool and not look at the visual aspect of the picture but maybe they need to look at the information that is behind it in order to find the flags. Through investigative techniques, competitors should then be able to find out what the secret message is. Once they have the secret message, then they type that message into a scoring system. If they get the message right, they get their points. If they don't get the message right, they can try again or move on to the next problem. Mr. Marshall noted that this is just one sample of a problem and he further noted that some of the problems are much more advanced.

Ms. Manny inquired whether Mr. Marshall guided the competitors during the competition and whether he was allowed to give hints or tips to the competitors. Mr. Marshall stated that he and his staff were at the competition to mentor or facilitate. He noted that it was not their role to give competitors answers or direct clues as to how to find the flag. There are very strict rules about not giving the competitors too much help. If a competitor has a technical issue such as their computer stops working, they lose connection, or they have a question about how to type the answer message into the scoreboard, we were able to help them with those aspects.

Ms. Poteat inquired whether Mr. Marshall had the opportunity to preview the questions and try

them out himself. Mr. Marshall stated that he and his team had the opportunity to look at some sample problems. They weren't necessarily the same as the final problems given to competitors because they keep a tight lid on those. Mr. Marshall noted that all of the problems can always be solved but it just depends on how much time and effort one wants to devote to the problem(s). He further noted that competitors have access to Google during the competition as well as anything else they would need online to research the answer.

d. Frederick Reads: Mr. Hissong stated that last year we had a really fantastic event with Bill Bryson. He packed both houses and had the audience rolling in the aisles with laughter.

He noted that he is very excited about this year's event. The Frederick Reads event will take place on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at The Weinberg Center and on Tuesday, March 20, 2017 at 11:15 a.m. at Frederick Community College. Jose Andres, Chef/Author/Humanitarian, will be the author at this year's Frederick Reads event. Most people know him as a chef that has brought Spanish cuisine to America. He has two signature restaurants in Washington, DC. He also has restaurants across the United States in Los Angeles and Las Vegas as well as restaurants in Mexico City and Puerto Rico. He transforms food into an art and an experience.

In fact, in 2011 he won the highest honor that an American chef can get – the Outstanding Chef Award – by the James Beard Foundation. Mr. Hissong stated that not only is Mr. Andres a chef but he is an author. He has written a number of cookbooks which FCPL has in its catalog. He also did a PBS series about Spanish cooking that is also available on DVD. In addition, he did a PBS documentary about food in Haiti and the Haitian culture and that is available through FCPL's online streaming service, Kanopy.

One of the things that Mr. Andres has done that speaks to us as a library, is that he is a humanitarian. He has been in the press a lot for the work that he has done with World Central Kitchen in Puerto Rico. After Hurricane Maria hit in Puerto Rico, it was Chef Jose Andres and a non-profit organization that went to Puerto Rico and fed the people. He fed more than 300 people in Puerto Rico. Also, he fed the firefighters that have been fighting the Thomas Wildfires in California. He has done a fantastic job. This mission of service that he has of being a servant really ties into the library because we serve the community.

Mr. Hissong stated that it is not too late to get tickets. Tickets will be available at the beginning of February and like any library event, the tickets for these events will be totally free and the events are open to the public. Some announcements and publicity will be made shortly on how to get tickets. The Weinberg Center has been kind enough to let us use their ticketing system.

Thereafter, Mr. Hissong thanked FCPL's primary partners in this endeavor: Frederick Community College, The Weinberg Center and the C. Burr Artz Trust. He stated that he is very excited about this event and looks forward to seeing everyone on March 19th or 20th.

Mr. Laugelli inquired whether there will be any food service at the events. Mr. Hissong stated

that, unfortunately, there will not be any food service at the events. The topic of his discussion will be “Changing the World through the Power of Food”.

e. TEDxMid-Atlantic Recap: Mr. Kelly stated that he had the opportunity to attend TEDx with a small delegation of other FCPL employees (Derek Gee, Val Atmonavage, and Tessa Gunnell). TEDx events are basically like big TED. They follow the same format and same branding but they are held locally. Many of the speakers are from the metropolitan area. TEDx was held in Washington, DC and staff spent two full days listening to a very diverse roster of speakers.

The speakers consisted of cancer researchers, comic book artists, chefs, composers, criminal justice reformers, etc. Staff met a Senator who had 20 years of “experience” and a Baltimore resident who, at just 17, was awarded the Goldman Prize, which is the most prestigious environmental award, for mobilizing her community to defeat what would have been the largest incinerator to be built one mile from her high school.

Mr. Kelly stated that non-library conferences are important because it gives staff a new lens. Libraries are not immune and look at their problems through their own lens so having an opportunity to meet people and see their process and learn what they do, gives us the ability to look at our own problems in a new light. Learning from them is a very rewarding part of attending non-library conferences. Another reason to attend non-library conferences is to expand our network. Very often at non-library conferences, we are one of the only, if not the only, public library delegation that is at the conference so the opportunity to talk to fellow attendees helps us dispel a lot of myths. A lot of folks in society hold on to a more traditional view of what libraries were and used to be and this gives us an opportunity not only to advocate for ourselves but for libraries-at-large and this leads to new programming opportunities and new partnership opportunities. Non-library conferences also provide inspiration and growth.

Mr. Kelly stated that Jose Andres was a speaker at TEDx and he was very inspirational. Bryan Hisson did a great job highlighting Mr. Andres’ work with World Central Kitchen and his work to help communities abroad and domestically after the wake of many natural disasters. He noted that Val Atmonavage is already working on outreach programming that will tie-in with Jose Andres’ visit and Tessa Gunnell is starting to form a panel called “Feeding Frederick”.

Another person we heard from at the conference was F. K. Day. F. K. Day is a cyclist and humanitarian and in the 1980s he started a company called SRAM, which manufactures and distributes high-end bicycle components. After the tsunami in the Indian Ocean in 2005, he was looking for a way he could help other people using what he knows so he founded a non-profit called World Bicycle Relief. Their mission is to take away transportation as a barrier to healthcare, education and economic development. He does that by producing these bikes and distributing them around the world. In their first project, they distributed 24,000 new bicycles to Sri Lanka after the tsunami and since that time they have distributed over 300,000 bicycles globally. Mr. Kelly displayed a photo of one of the bicycles which is called a Buffalo Model. It is used to haul water. The bicycles are given to people of all ages around the world whenever there is a disaster. It was very inspirational to hear from F. K. Day because his message was to

take something you know that you are good at and use it to help people and Mr. Kelly stated that he feels library staff do that every day.

Two others that we heard from at the conference were Drs. Reider and Wurzman. Travis Reider is a Bioethicist at Hopkins but, in addition, following a motorcycle accident, he became addicted to opioids so he put a different face on what the stereotype is of an addict. Hearing his journey and how he worked through some of that was very inspirational. Dr. Wurzman, a Neuroscientist at the University of Pennsylvania, shared her findings in neurological studies as well as social isolation and economic hardship. Her message and the message of many speakers really touched on the importance of interdisciplinary approaches. She is on the forefront of a new field called social neuroscience. Her message, as well as a number of other speakers, was that the interdisciplinary approaches really are the key to solving some of society's biggest problems. Hearing the two of them back-to-back was very powerful.

Walter Woods is the CEO of the Humana Foundation. He shared a statistic that 10,000 baby boomers turn 65 each day and that trend is going to continue for at least the next 10 years. His talk was centered on issues relating to older adults and the fact that many of them live in isolation may contribute to negative health outcomes. Derek Gee has been working with Buckingham's Choice and has made connections with Country Meadows as well. He is working on a grant to fund programming at some of these facilities to provide an additional platform for socialization and dialog addressing some of the very things that Walter Woods highlighted for us. Mr. Woods closed by saying that we should support organizations that make people feel valued and at-peace. Again, Mr. Kelly stated that he feels that libraries are one of those organizations.

Mr. Kelly stated that some of the lessons that staff learned at this conference is that we should not be afraid to make mistakes and to learn from accidents and that we should be human and humanize others. He noted that one of the biggest take-a-ways from the conference was from Dr. Mindy Fullilove. Dr. Fullilove is a Professor of Urban Policy and Health at The New School in New York City. Her message was that when we work across ecology, we build opportunity.

Mr. Laugelli commented that the library is more than just a library. The library is a focal point for the community. The library is a unique institution. There is nothing else like a library system.

Mr. Kelly stated that FCPL is an anchor throughout the County and staff have worked very hard to build those partnerships. Depending on the challenge, FCPL is able to partner with these outside organizations to help us reach people that we might not normally reach. And, in addition, when some of the partners come to our libraries to do programming, the programmers are able to reach out to audiences that they may not normally reach out to so it is a mutually beneficial relationship.

f. Development/End of Year Giving Update: Jess El-Zeftawy introduced herself to everyone by stating that she is the Development Officer for FCPL. She noted that with the beginning of each New Year, there is an opportunity for us to reflect on our successes and challenges of the

prior year. With that in mind, she wanted to say “Thank You” to the FCPL Board of Trustees, FCPL’s dedicated staff, to our volunteers and our wonderful donors/supporters and noted that without them, none of FCPL’s successes this past year would have been possible.

As the Development Officer, she noted that a lot of her work with donors/funders centers on the annual calendar year while the library operates on a fiscal year. She added that her busiest season is the end of the year as donors are seeking to make a tax deductible, charitable donation. Throughout the year, but especially towards the end of the year, she noted she does a lot of asking. She asks for time, donations, and support but the most important thing she can do is say “Thank You”.

Another year has concluded and for her update, Ms. El-Zeftawy shared a few of last year’s giving stories and offered “thanks” to those who deserve it the most. To those generous donors and funders who stepped up this year to lead by example – Thank You.

Thank You to the Children’s Center of Walkersville and the Little Friends of the Walkersville Library who made a \$2,000 gift and a five year pledge to teach our young people the importance and value of community, philanthropy, and public libraries.

To the Friends of Walkersville Library who made a \$6,000 leadership gift and have waited years for the new library that they have dreamed of that will be opening this Spring – Thank You!

To the Glade Valley Lions Club who made a \$10,000 gift and, not just through this gift, but many like it, have made a tremendous difference in their community by advancing education, literacy and increasing access to opportunities for those who experience disabilities and vision impairment – Thank You!

To the United Way who awarded FCPL a \$7,500 grant and has been a long-time supporter of not just the library but our community – Thank You!

To the Friends of the Urbana Regional Library who have been fundraising for years to be able to make a \$20,000 leadership gift to insure that their library is offering the best possible services to a growing community – Thank You!

Ms. El-Zeftawy stated that because of our donors, we are on track to successfully completing our biggest and most aggressive campaign and that is to open two early literacy and learning spaces that will have an immediate impact on the lives of our littlest customers and their families in the Walkersville and Urbana communities. These spaces are proven to increase library visits, picture book circulation and build skills to help prepare our children to read and succeed when they go to school. FCPL and our donors believe that every child in Frederick County should have equal access to early literacy opportunities and she thanked everyone for making it possible.

Ms. El-Zeftawy thereafter thanked those donors who gave us the opportunity to celebrate some of life’s greatest examples of fellowship and to those who allowed us to provide healing for some of

life's greatest heartaches. FCPL is deeply appreciative of your gifts and FCPL is honored that you chose us.

Ms. El-Zeftawy thanked Cecily Fritz and her family who, in the wake of her father's death after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease, made a donation to start a collection of children and young adult books to honor his memory as a life-long educator. She also thanked Tiffany Patterson who made a donation to purchase beloved children's classics in memory of her daughter in what would have been her fourth birthday. Thereafter she thanked the Carrollton Manor Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, to the Readers and Eaters Book Club and the Must Love Shoes Book Club. She noted that these influential women live life to its fullest and decided to pay it forward by giving back to the library in recognition of all of the things that bind us together – Thank You! She noted that because of these donors and many others like them, FCPL has added hundreds of diverse books to our collection which will be well-loved throughout Frederick County.

Thereafter, Ms. El-Zeftawy thanked Mrs. Trudy Fry, one of FCPL's most loyal benefactors who loved her husband, Edward Fry, so much that she created a library in his memory and continues to advocate on behalf of her library and community every day.

Ms. El-Zeftawy thanked each and every one of FCPL's volunteers and staff, and noted that we are so lucky to work alongside you as you create a meaningful experience in all of our public libraries.

Ms. El-Zeftawy thanked each and every person who made a gift last year to FCPL. You are a part of a community dedicated to enriching public libraries and providing everyone with an opportunity to achieve their fullest potential through the life changing power of reading. She thereafter displayed a list of donor names. She added that FCPL looks forward to continuing to serve Frederick County as we move into 2018.

Ms. Smith commented that one of her neighbors was on the list of donors and added that her neighbor gave her a lovely compliment about FCPL. When her neighbor made her year-end donation, she got a personal thank you from the library. Ms. Smith stated that it sounded like something Jess would do. Her neighbor was very touched by the personal thank you she received for helping to support the library.

Mr. Laugelli stated that with all the talk about the tax changes coming about, he was wondering if it might be a challenging year for taxable donations. Ms. El-Zeftawy noted that the non-profit sector is remarkably resilient and in years of recession, giving remains constant so she has no doubt that while we know that tax deductible status and other issues relating to the threshold as to what can/cannot be itemized will effect some donors, we like to think that taxes are just a gentle reminder for folks to make a gift. It will be interesting to see what happens but she fully projects that FCPL will continue to grow its giving program.


BOARD QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS: None

OTHER CITIZEN REMARKS: None.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at the C. Burr Artz Library – 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick, MD.

B. Poteat made a motion to adjourn the meeting; seconded by K. Kane. No further discussion.
VOTE: Unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



George Langalli, Chair
Frederick County Public Libraries Board of Trustees