

James L. Hamner Public Library  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, July 20, 2022

**Attendance**

Library Trustees: Karen Freas, Beatrice Head, Virginia Whitaker

Friends of the Library: Louisa Fink, Linda Whittington

Library Staff: Katie Arthur, Wren Hall, Jill Hames, Baylee Hughes

**Discussion**

Virginia started the meeting at 5:14 p.m., asked for ideas for a celebration, and offered ideas.

Virginia:

- How long should the celebration be?
- Time capsule?
- Donate books?
- Dress up as favorite book character?
- Use social media as part of the celebration?
- Photo contest?
- Drawing contest?

Karen:

- Display of the library and Amelia then and now?
  - o What books were popular then? Music, entertainment popular, etc.? What was life like 50 years ago? What did things cost?
- Blank "birthday" cards for patrons to write what's important to them about the library, why do they keep coming back?
  - o Send to Hamner relatives?
- Golden ticket hidden throughout library, in books, etc. (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary = Golden anniversary) with a prize for finding the ticket?

Linda: What year are you going to do this?

Karen: 2023

Virginia asked library staff for ideas. They did not have any but participated in the discussion around others' ideas.

Virginia asked the Friends for ideas.

- Linda said that she has ephemera at her house that might be useful.

There was discussion on the length of time needed for the celebration and its location.

- Virginia said the thought was to have the celebration activities be inside and outside the library, as well as in the Courthouse area.

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Beatrice suggested a banquet.

Karen suggested incorporating the celebration with the summer reading program and a donation drive as a way for the community to give back to the library.

Beatrice suggested t-shirts, caps, or something similar as a fundraiser.

Karen suggested food trucks.

Linda suggested a canvas bag as a fundraiser.

Discussion ensued, but no decision was made.

Louisa asked if these [bags, shirts, etc.] would be for sale or as prizes. The decision was postponed.

Karen suggested making copies, etc. the price from 50 years ago. Jill said the trustees would need to approve the change.

Karen suggested making each month of the anniversary year a celebration of something literary.

Jill said that in order to make decisions, these two questions needed to be answered first:

- 1) How long will the celebration be?
- 2) How much will the Friends be willing to donate?

Louisa and Linda commented that the Friends could not make a decision on how much to donate until they knew how much would be requested and for what purpose. It was suggested that the 50<sup>th</sup> Committee prepare a budget that the Friends could vote on.

There was discussion. April 2023 was confirmed as the main month of celebration. There was discussion on whether to lead up to April or use April as the kick-off.

Karen asked if there were enough staff to do something long term. Baylee answered that it depended on how much involvement was needed. Virginia advocated for something small each month. Baylee said that was doable.

It was decided to start in April with a big event and go through August, ending with a big event before school starts.

Karen suggested having a car show.

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Virginia summarized the discussion so far.

Discussion was had on an art contest for the fundraising bags, but no decision was made.

Virginia suggested the next meeting be in the fall, after the September Library Board of Trustees meeting and the Friends of the Library meeting, and closed the committee meeting at 5:43 p.m.