

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – June 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting Statement:

Good morning, everyone. I am Julie Goyette, Director of Rockbridge Regional Library System.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rockbridge Regional Library Board of Trustees is taking actions to minimize attendance at public meetings. In accordance with the Virginia Code Sec. 15.2-1413 allowing any meeting which requires the presence of members of a Public Entity such as the Board of Trustees may be held through real time electronic means without a quorum physically present in one location.

A notice of this meeting was posted on library website and on social media. This meeting is accessible by phone using GoToMeeting.

We ask that speakers identify themselves when speaking.

All members of the Board of Trustees who arrive or leave the meeting must verbally note their attendance.

Are there any questions from the Board of Trustees about the process for holding this meeting?

There were no questions asked by the Board.

Attending the meeting:

Library Director Julie Goyette
Chair Bruce McWilliams
Treasurer Carl Behrens
Deputy Treasurer Tom Lominac
Secretary Beverly Slaydon
Parliamentarian Joe Cailles
Board member Thomas Bell
Board member Alexandra Brown
Board member Tom Goodale
Board member Gail Heslep
Board member Doug Horan
Board member Brandea Reed
Board member McKinley Williams
Board member Jessica Whipple

A quorum of the board does exist.

Mr. Chair please proceed.

Mr. McWilliams asked for a motion to approve the February 18, 2020 and May 16, 2020 minutes. The minutes of the February 18, 2020 minutes were approved as presented. The May 16, 2020 minutes were approved with one correction; McKinley Williams did attend the meeting.

Mission Moment: 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten

Mrs. Goyette introduced Elaina Skovira, Buena Vista Branch Manager and asked that she tell about her program in Buena Vista, 1,000 Books before Kindergarten, which encourages parents to read with their children every day.

Mrs. Skovira also offers Kindergarten Preparation classes. She introduced this program three years ago. The program has been so successful it fills up by word of month before she can formally advertise it.

The classes are designed for preschool-aged children to help prepare them for Kindergarten in the following year. There is not a program like this in the City of Buena Vista at this time.

Mrs. Skovira was an elementary school teacher before she came to work for RRLS. During Kindergarten Preparation classes, she teaches children how to follow directions, write their name, form a line (they take turns being the line leader), do seat work, and clean up before they go home. Mrs. Skovira uses a room on the second floor of the Buena Vista Library for a classroom. Children completing the classes are prepared for success when they start school. Mr. Behrens asked how many children in the community are not included in this program. Mrs. Skovira said it was hard to know. There is a real need for this program!

Questions regarding board packet

None

Discussion & Review

Foundation Board met through a virtual meeting, on June 9, 2020, at 4 pm. The following items were discussed:

- President David Dugan's resignation
- Voted on Slate of Officers
 - President –Sally Wiant
 - Vice President – Michael Strickler
 - Treasurer – Ross Waller

- Budget cuts from localities
- Discussion of the term “piggy bank” and how this shouldn't apply to the request for \$25,000.00 by Board of Trustees for computers
- Need for a financial advisor for the foundation
- The need for fund raising
- Agreed to set aside time at the August Foundation Board meeting to discuss how the two boards can work together in unity

Curbside service began on May 22, 2020 at all branches.

Goshen lease/System Agreement

All governing localities have approved the System Agreement. We are now waiting for Mr. Harris, Goshen property owner, to get back with us about modifying the lease he presented to a 5-year lease instead of the 20-year lease he wanted.

Mrs. Goyette discussed the reduction of hours at all branches and the cutting of hours of some part-time staff. Buena Vista was the hardest hit with the branch being closed two days a week and reducing

their operating hours from 36 hours to now 28 hours a week. All branches are closed on Fridays as it is the least busy day of the week. Lexington will be open on Fridays from 1:00 – 5:00 pm.

Mr. McWilliams asked the trustees to think of how the board can impress on localities the importance of libraries to their communities. They need to be aware of the important value a public library brings to their community.

Mr. McWilliams introduced our new Trustee, Jessica Whipple. Ms. Whipple has a Master in Library Science. She has knowledge of many aspects of a library system. She has recently moved back with her husband to Buena Vista. We are very pleased to welcome her to the Board of Trustees.

Action items

- Approval of the FY 2020 Operating Budget

Mr. Behrens made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the FY 2020 Operating Budget.

- Slate of Officers

Mr. McWilliams announced the board would continue with our current slate of officers as per our discussion at our last meeting with the exception of finding a new vice chair. Mr. Horan made the motion to approve continuing with our current slate of officers. Mrs. Heslep seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve this motion.

Public Comment

None

Meeting adjourned at 11:08 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Slaydon
Recording Secretary