

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – February 24, 2022
4:15 PM, Piovano Room, Lexington

The Board of Trustees met in the Piovano Room, on February 24, 2022.

Members present included Jessica Whipple, Joe Cailles, Tom Goodale, Gail Heslep, Bob Kramer, Tom Lominac, Thomas Bell, Carl Behrens, and McKinley Williams. Bruce McWilliams, Foundation President, represented the Foundation Board. Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Library Director, and Beverly Slaydon, Recording Secretary.

In the absence of Ms. Brown, Chair, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair, Ms. Whipple.

The agenda was set as presented.

The minutes of the January 27, 2022 meeting were approved with one correction. Mrs. Heslep was added as being in attendance at the January 27, 2022 meeting.

Foundation Update

Mr. McWilliams, Foundation President, reported the Foundation Board met virtually on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, using GoToMeeting. The fund raising letter has raised to date, \$70,425.75. A total of six hundred twenty letters were mailed and 107 gifts were received, resulting in an 18% return. The Board discussed other ways of fund raising. Many ideas were brought up and a committee will be formed to peruse some of these ideas. The next meeting will be May 10, 2022, at 4:30 PM.

Mr. Bell suggested the Foundation add GO FUND ME to this list of possibilities for raising money.

Questions regarding board packet

Mrs. Goyette reported the library is seeing increasing numbers of patrons coming to our locations. Overall, patron count in libraries is up 31% for the fiscal year and checkouts are up 22%. Other statistics that increased were in house use, renewals, borrowers added and reference questions. Programs, homebound visits and EBooks are all up slightly.

A lack of hot water in the restrooms in the Buena Vista Library continues to be an issue. The pipes from the hot water heater run under the building so there is no way to insulate them to help with this problem. Public Works did turn up the temperature on the hot water and that has made a little difference but it still takes about three minutes to get warm water to the sinks.

DMV Connect set up at Glasgow Library on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. DMV Connect is a service outreach program and serves Virginians who may not be able to travel to a DMV office. There was a very good turnout for this program with 28 customers served. The DMV staff were very pleased with the turnout and plan to return again.

Mrs. Goyette announced the library has changed its phone carrier to Granite Telecommunications. This will reduce our phone costs.

RRLS Staff Development will be held this year at Jordan's Point in Lexington, on April 28, 2022. All RRLS locations and outreach will be closed so that all staff may attend.

RRLS is installing hold lockers in Fairfield at the Rescue Squad building. The lockers will be purchased with a grant RRLS received from the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act). There need for library service is great in Fairfield and these lockers will help until we are able to establish a branch there. A branch in Fairfield is a real dream for the library and we hope with planning and campaigning for the branch we will be able to make this happen. We discussed the letter Ms. Heslep sent to the new owner of the Red Hill Road property at the last meeting. We are still interested in this property for a branch location and the owner is amenable to a long term lease. Mrs. Goyette will keep the board informed.

Heliotrope Brewing next door to the library in Lexington, spoke with Mrs. Goyette about painting one of the library exterior walls in the alley where they have tables set up. They will share a drawing of the design with Mrs. Goyette when they receive it. The design would have their symbol and also the name of the Rockbridge Regional Library on the wall. The artist has painted many signs at W&L. Mrs. Goyette will share the drawing with the board when she receives it. The wall to be painted can't be seen from Main Street so it doesn't have to be approved by the Architectural Review Board for the city of Lexington.

Mr. Bell asked Mrs. Goyette about the staffing in the branches. He understood that on most days there is only one person working in the branches. In light of some criminal activities in Buena Vista in recent weeks he felt there should always be two staff members working. Mrs. Goyette thanked him for bringing this up and she had planned to address this later in the meeting but would talk about it now. She had just met that morning with the Branch managers to discuss this issue. The Buena Vista Branch will now have two staff members working at all times. The other branches felt safe in their locations and most times do have two staff members working. Mrs. Goyette will speak with local law enforcement in each location about safety tips.

Discussion

Mrs. Goyette reported maintenance costs are higher than normal because of several repairs and unexpected costs that have occurred in the last month. We had to replace an air compressor on the sprinkler system in Lexington and this has led to some additional electrical work. There is a water leak in the back offices in Lexington and the roofing company has been called. In Glasgow an HVAC unit had to be replaced.

Action items

After discussion of the additional Maintenance expenses, Mr. Bell made a motion that the Board approve the needed funds for additional maintenance costs. Ms. Whipple seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve this motion.

Public Comment

No public in attendance

Meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 31, 2022, at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Slaydon, Secretary