

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – June 30, 2022
4:15 PM

The Board of Trustees met in the Piovano Room, on June 30, 2022.

Members present included Alexandra Brown, Tom Goodale, Bob Kramer, Carl Behrens, McKinley Williams, Bret Kampf, Melanie Forde, Margaret Kirkby, and Gail Heslep. Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Library Director, and Beverly Slaydon, Recording Secretary.

Ms. Brown, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Mission Moment

Mrs. Goyette introduced Katie Ramsey, Digital & Cataloging System Manager. Katie discussed the library's downloadable eBook collection. Libby is a free app that allows patrons to borrow eBooks, eAudiobooks, and magazines from their public library. Libby can be downloaded to a personal device from the App Store or the Google Play store or you can read or listen online from a computer. Libby checkouts have continued to rise for the library. Pre-pandemic, our checkouts ranged from mid-1,000s to low 2,000s. While we were closed for the pandemic, we encouraged patrons to use Libby to find books and audiobooks. Since then, the checkouts have steady gone up, just last month alone, the total checkouts were 3,425. Our total e-book circulation in FY 2019 was 23,278 and as of this morning, FY 2022 the count is at 37,004. Ms. Brown thanked Katie for her presentation and the great job she is doing for the library system.

Ms. Brown introduced Margaret Kirkby, our newest board member who will represent Lexington.

The Board presented Carl Behrens with a gift and a Resolution as this is his last meeting. Ms. Brown read the Resolution which will become part of the minutes of this meeting. A cake was presented and enjoyed by everyone.

The minutes of the May 26, 2022 meeting were approved as presented.

Foundation Update

The Foundation Board will meet next on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 4:30 PM, in the Piovano Room.

Questions regarding board packet

There were no questions at this time.

Discussion

Mr. Goodale reminded the board the FY2023 Proposed Budget needed to be approved. There was no discussion needed. Mr. Goodale made a motion the Budget be approved as presented. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the FY2023 Proposed Budget as presented.

Potential new location for Goshen

Mrs. Goyette reported that since she wrote up the current agenda, a lot has taken place concerning Goshen. We thought we had identified a building that would work for the Goshen Library but once we received a copy of the lease from the landlord it doesn't look

like a viable option. There were many concerning items in the lease that lead Mrs. Goyette to this conclusion. The items were not discussed when the building was initially toured:

- Staff would be required to share an office with the landlord in the building. He would be operating his business from our rented space.
- Some of his choice of wording in the lease is questionable and subject to his interpretation.
- The landlord would manage the parking lot and could move the space staff and patrons are allowed to use as well as require license plate numbers.
- If we want hot water we need to install a hot water heater.
- Responsibility for the maintenance of the building, inside and out, is not clear.

Concerning our current location, Mr. Harris called Mrs. Goyette after the date specified in her letter for him to respond (in writing) concerning the safety and maintenance problems that exist, and a timeline for when these problems would be addressed. Mr. Harris told Mrs. Goyette that their phone conversation was his answer to her letter. He did not respond in writing. Mr. Harris added that rent would go up from \$1,250 per month to \$2,000 per month with an annual accelerator of 2%.

Mrs. Goyette explained she felt that our current location and the lease received for a new location makes these two situations for Goshen not viable. Mrs. Goyette and members of the staff and board, together with realtors, have searched for other possible locations without success. There are plans for a community center in Goshen. When the center is completed, we plan to return to brick and mortar services.

Mrs. Goyette has spoken with Mr. Suter, Rockbridge County Administrator and explained the current situation with Goshen. He said that Mrs. Goyette's suggestions of how to serve the community of Goshen with the bookmobile two days a week and public Wi-Fi were good ideas. Holds lockers and additional community stops could also be added. The bookmobile visits will be coordinated with the preschool to give the children access to books and materials while they are at school.

We have been discussing the option of a branch library in Fairfield for several years. Mrs. Heslep, trustee who represents Rockbridge County, lives in Fairfield. She has been talking to the community about their desire to have a branch, and has been met with great enthusiasm.

There is a building on Red Hill Road in Fairfield that has become available and the owner is willing to work with us to make a branch there a reality. Mrs. Goyette will put together a lease to be reviewed by the owner, council and the Board. The four governing localities in our system agreement must approve the branch in Fairfield before we could move forward with any plans.

Fairfield is the fastest growing community in Rockbridge County. We have a strong patron base currently being served by the Bookmobile.

Action items

Mr. Goodale made a motion to give Mrs. Goyette, Library Director, the authority to give a 60 Day Notice to the Goshen landlord and to pay rent for the period of time needed to move out. Mrs. Heslep seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Last month the Board discussed Staff Development by approving the Tuition Assistance Policy. This would help to pay tuition for staff who want to pursue a career in librarianship. Mrs. Goyette asked if the Board was ready to vote on moving available money made available following the PPP Grant and Employee Retention Credit into the Foundation to invest and earn interest for Staff Development. Mrs. Heslep made a motion that funds made available by the PPP Loan and Employee Retention Credit be placed in the Foundation for Staff Development. Mr. Behrens seconded the motion. The board of trustees voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Public Comment

No public attended.

Next meeting: Tuesday, July 28, 2022, at 4:15 PM.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Beverly Slaydon
Recording Secretary