

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – July 27, 2023
4:15 PM

The Board of Trustees met in the Piovano meeting room at the Lexington Rockbridge Regional Library on July 27, 2023 at 4:15 PM.

Members present included Thomas Bell (via Zoom), Alex Brown, Tim Eldredge, Melanie Forde, Tom Goodale, Gail Heslep, Bret Kampf, Margaret Kirkby, Bob Kramer, Sherrie Wheeler, Jessi Whipple (Chair), and Bruce McWilliams (Foundation President). Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Library Director, and Janice Burguieres, Recording Secretary.

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

Ms. Whipple made a request to move Mr. Koehler’s presentation to the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Kramer made a motion to approve the amended agenda and Ms. Heslep seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Presentation: The First Amendment and the Public Library Book Challenges – John Koehler, Attorney, Steele Law Firm

Mr. Koehler shared information regarding accessioning, deaccessioning, and restricting materials from a library collection.

Ms. Whipple welcomed Sherri Wheeler, the new Trustee from Buena Vista. Ms. Wheeler shared information about herself.

Approval of June minutes

Mr. Eldredge made a motion to approve the June 29th minutes. Ms. Forde seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Public comment

There were no public comments.

Questions regarding board packet

Ms. Kirkby noted that the Goshen stuffed animal project was delightful and very creative. Mr. Kampf asked where he could view the pictures of the stuffed animal project. Ms. Goyette will check on that.

Discussion

Mr. McWilliams reported that the Foundation will be meeting August 29th. Ms. Whipple encouraged the Trustees to share any thoughts about end-of-year fundraising campaigns.

Ms. Whipple informed the Board that she and Ms. Goyette met with the Buena Vista City Manager, Jason Tyree, to discuss Buena Vista’s library funding. Mr. Tyree stated that the amount of funding previously reported was a typo and that the Buena Vista City Council had actually voted to provide level funding to the Library. After the discussion between Ms. Whipple, Ms. Goyette, and Mr. Tyree, the City Council confirmed the correct amount. Ms. Whipple reported that, after her next meeting with Mr. Tyree, the other Buena Vista Trustees can take turns meeting with him.

The Board has received a request for reconsideration of materials in the library collection. Ms. Whipple will work on setting up a committee from the Board. She will reach out to Board members who will be involved.

The Trustees discussed the best days and times to hold future Board meetings. After considering everyone's schedule, it was determined that the meetings will remain at 4:15 on Thursdays. Ms. Brown may need to arrive late to meetings for the first semester of the school year. The Trustees also discussed the meetings in November and December. There was concern that these meetings would conflict with Thanksgiving and Christmas. Ms. Goyette will send out a poll to gather input on everyone's availability for these two meetings. The Board agreed on the locations for future meetings. The Buena Vista meeting will be held at the children's library. After discussion regarding times for the Executive Committee meetings, it was decided that the Executive Committee will meet after regular Board meetings.

The Board discussed the Collection Development Policy and Reconsideration Form. Based on Mr. Koehler's presentation, Mr. Bell noted that the policy needed to define what happens to materials while they are going through the reconsideration process. Mr. Kampf asked if there was a timeframe for the reconsideration process. Ms. Goyette pointed out that it is difficult to pinpoint an exact time frame due to the type of material, availability of committee members, number of requests, and time needed for committee members to study the questioned material. Ms. Kirkby recommended that the item in question remain in place in the collection until a final decision has been made regarding deaccessioning or restricting it. Ms. Heslep agreed. Ms. Forde noted several corrections to the policy. "Midwest Book Reviews" should be changed to "Midwest Book Review." "Publishers' Weekly" should be changed to "Publishers Weekly." Ms. Forde also pointed out a grammatical error in the sentence, "The form may be submitted to the patron's library branch, or the bookmobile and they will be sent to the Library Director." Ms. Goyette suggested rewording the sentence to read, "The form may be submitted to the patron's library branch, or the bookmobile and staff will send it to the Library Director." The Trustees agreed to this change. Ms. Goyette also suggested adding a sentence which states, "While the item is being reviewed, it will remain in its current location until a decision is made by the committee." The Board agreed with this revision.

Action items

Ms. Kirkby made a motion to accept the collection development policy as amended. Mr. Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed with Mr. Bell abstaining.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Heslep to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Kampf seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:15.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the Bath County Library on August 31, 2023 at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Burguieres
Recording Secretary