

Rockbridge Regional Library System
Board of Trustees Meeting – August 31, 2023
4:15 PM

The Board of Trustees met at the Bath County Library on August 31, 2023 at 4:15 PM.

Trustees present: Thomas Bell, Alex Brown, Tim Eldredge, Melanie Forde, Tom Goodale, Gail Heslep, Bret Kampf, Margaret Kirkby, and Bob Kramer. Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Library Director, and Janice Burguieres, Recording Secretary.

Trustees absent: Sherri Wheeler, Jessi Whipple, and McKinley Williams.

Mr. Kampf, Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Mr. Kampf requested an amendment to the agenda. He requested that the recent meeting of the Reconsideration of Materials committee be added to the Discussion topics. Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the addition to the agenda. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Brown made a motion to approve the July 27th minutes. Mr. Goodale seconded the motion. Upon discussion it was noted that the word “a” needed to be deleted in the following sentence, “The Board has a received a request for reconsideration of materials in the library collection.” Ms. Heslep made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Mr. Goodale seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mission Moment

Amy Porterfield, Branch Manager at the Bath County Library, shared information about the library services and programs. Amy discussed the variety of children’s programs offered by the Bath County Library including pre-school and after-school, crafts, the seed program, and visits to the neighboring farm. Amy received a six hundred dollar grant to continue the popular Pond Explorers program and a one thousand dollar grant to start the *Choose Your Own Adventure* Book Club. Ms. Porterfield has received three grants since she began managing the Bath County Library. She is currently working on partnering with students from the local high school to engage students as tutors for the younger children who attend library programs in the afternoon. She has also been invited to offer a library card registration event.

Foundation Update

Bruce McWilliams, President of the RRLS Foundation, was unable to attend the board meeting. Mrs. Goyette reported that the Foundation Board meet on August 29th. Phil Waara, Financial Advisor from eCIO, presented the financial report for the board of directors. The Foundation Board discussed replacing members who resigned from the board and established a fundraising committee to work on the annual fundraising campaign. Members of the committee are Bruce McWilliams, Mike Strickler, Jessi Whipple, and Tom Camden.

Public comment

Mr. Kampf read the guidelines for making public comments. Hugh Henderson of 866 Kygers Hill Road, Lexington, in the Effinger area, asked to make public comments to the Board. Mr. Henderson gave a detailed background about himself, his past work history, and his

endeavors since moving to Rockbridge County. Mr. Henderson hopes to begin a discussion on Library materials, particularly for children in grades K-6, especially as they pertain to LGBTQ+ issues.

Questions regarding board packet

Board members pointed out the following corrections in the Board packet:

- Line 214.1 on page one of the Profit and Loss page is described as "fines." Mrs. Goyette noted that, since we no longer charge fines, that line should be changed to "fees."
- Proper spelling of peek regarding the magic show at Buena Vista Library.
- Work instead of working regarding the Commonwealth History fund grant.

Board members also asked about the Paranormal Group that visited the Buena Vista Library. Mr. Bell recounted a story regarding an inmate in the old jail portion of the library who escaped and was eventually killed. Ms. Heslep commented that the environmental report for Buena Vista Library stated that a paranormal group detected formaldehyde at the library. Ms. Goyette stated that, since the group detected formaldehyde, she recorded that information under facilities. Elaina Skovira, Buena Vista Branch Manager, informed the city of the group's finding and reported that she wanted to check with the city of Buena Vista to see if their equipment also picked up formaldehyde. Ms. Heslep asked if the paranormal group was paid for its services. Ms. Goyette reported that they were not. Paranormal groups volunteer their work. Other paranormal groups have visited the library and showed multiple findings of activity. The current group will hold a town meeting and invite Buena Vista residents to attend to share their experiences with paranormal activity. Ms. Goyette also stated that the group found evidence of a woman in a long white dress on the third floor.

Discussion

Mrs. Goyette reported that several insurance companies have complained about not being allowed to use the meeting room to sell Medicare Advantage. She stated that the library does not allow use of meeting space for the purpose of selling services or products. Debi Ratliff is working with someone on the state level regarding Medicare as well as VPAS, Virginia Program for Aging Services. Her goal is to provide a program that delivers unbiased information regarding Medicare.

The Finance Committee has solicited information from eCIO, Cornerstone Bank, and Schwab with regard to the funds from the Fleenor Bequest. After reviewing the information received, the Finance Committee is recommending that the money be invested through eCIO. Mr. Goodale has requested that Attorney David Natkin review any documents prior to moving forward. Mr. Goodale noted that the board trustees are knowledgeable about finances and have been responsible with investing in an uncertain market.

The Board discussed the meeting dates for September through December. Mrs. Goyette recommended the following dates and locations for the upcoming meetings: October 5 (Lexington), November 2 (Goshen), and December 7 (Lexington).

Mrs. Goyette reported on the recent meeting of the Committee for the Reconsideration of Materials following the Request for Reconsideration of *Gender Queer* in June. The

committee recommends the book be moved from the young adult collection to the adult collection at all locations.

Mr. Kampf mentioned that the Goshen Town Council has been granted \$255,000 by Virginia Senators Kaine and Warner. The news story was in the *Roanoke Times* recently. Mrs. Goyette said she understands Goshen Town Council is purchasing, or has purchased, land near the First Aid building on Maury River Road in Goshen.

Action items

Mr. Eldridge made a motion to accept the recommendation of the Reconsideration of Materials committee. Mr. Goodale seconded the motion. During discussion, Ms. Forde noted that the writing style of the book lends itself more to the Adult collection. Mr. Bell pointed out that three other books on similar topics have been purchased by the library. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Forde made a motion to approve the new meeting dates for October, November, and December. Mr. Eldridge seconded the motion. Mr. Bell requested that Ms. Whipple be informed of the new dates as soon as possible to insure that they will not conflict with her schedule. Mrs. Goyette stated she had discussed the dates with Mrs. Whipple prior to the meeting. She added that, starting in January, the meetings will return to the fourth Thursday of the month. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Heslep made a motion to approve eCIO as the company to handle the Fleenor Bequest. Mr. Bell seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

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

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held at the library in Lexington on October 5, 2023 at 4:15.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Burguieres
Recording Secretary