

**Board of Trustees Meeting
Rockbridge Regional Library
January 23, 2025 4:15 PM**

The Board of Trustees met at the Lexington Branch of the Rockbridge Regional Library System on January 23, 2025 at 4:15 PM.

Members present included Alexandra Brown, Harper Donahoe, Mary Jo Brinkley, Bob Kramer, Thomas Bell, McKinley Williams, Melanie Forde, Sherri Wheeler, and Jessi Whipple. Tom Camden, Chair of the Library Foundation Board was also present. Staff members present were Julie Goyette, Library Director, and Janice Burguières, Office Manager.

Harper Donahoe, Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM.

Melanie Forde made a motion to approve the agenda. Alex Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mary Jo Brinkley made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 19, 2024 meeting. Jessi Whipple seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mission Moment

Land Acknowledgement with Wendy Redfern, Youth Program Specialist. Wendy shared some background information and stated that land acknowledgements are a recognition of the traditional homelands of the native people who lived in a place before European settlers. Wendy shared with the board the training that she had on the topic and the process by which she developed a land acknowledgement to share with children during her programs. The following is the land acknowledgement that she created.

This land is special; we must take care of it.

This land is old; we must honor it.

This land is borrowed from the Monocan People; they were the first to live here and they live here still.

To them and the land, we say thank you.

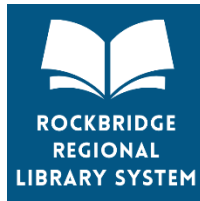
Wendy added that she uses a rock to help the youngest children understand what land means. The children and their caregivers pass around the rock during the acknowledgement.

Public Comment

Board members read comments from the public comment cards. Public comment cards are available to patrons and visitors at each location and on the bookmobile. Mary Jo Brinkley commented on the difficulty in getting in and out of the handicap parking space at the Lexington branch. Julie stated that she would speak to the city to see what can be done. No members of the public shared comments. Harper Donahoe shared the speech he gave on behalf of the board at the Martin Luther King, Jr. event at First Baptist Church on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The speech is included with these minutes.

Foundation Update

As of January 23, 2025 the total for the annual appeal is \$44,500.



Questions regarding board packet

Melanie Forde inquired as to reason for the decline in program attendance. Julie informed the board that the Library of Virginia had revised its policy on how program attendance is determined. The accounts for the lower number.

Discussion and announcements

Budget meeting with local governments

Julie informed the board that she attended a meeting with Harper Donahoe, Chair, and McKinley Williams, Treasurer. The meeting was with representatives of the four local governments to discuss the proposed budget. She reported that it was very helpful to have all of the governing bodies represented at the same meeting in order to explain the FY 2026 budget.

Broken pipe in Lexington

Julie informed the board about a recent sprinkler pipe that had burst at the Lexington branch. The burst pipe was located in an outside maintenance closet and caused no water damage to the library itself. She is working on getting a mini split in the room which houses the sprinkler system. An electrician has been called to fix the electrical issues that led to the fuse for the sprinkler compressor being flipped.

Bookmobile update

The bookmobile is on track for delivery in May. Harper Donahoe and Bo Cunningham, Outreach Manager, are planning on visiting the plant in April to observe the assembly process.

Board Retreat

The Board retreat will be held on February 27, 2025 at the Innovation Center at Rockbridge County High School. The regular board meeting will take place from 10-11 and the retreat will begin immediately following the regular meeting. Julie will begin communicating with potential speakers. Students in the culinary program will prepare food for the attendees.

Adjournment

Thomas Bell made a motion to adjourn. Bob Kramer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2025 at 10:00 PM at the Innovation Center at Rockbridge County High School. The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Burguières
Recording Secretary