



## Board of Trustees Meeting 20 July 2021 Minutes

**Trustees Attending:** Chair Andy Simon, Logan Hill, Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela, Dawn Reagan, Stephanie Thompson, Susan Williams

**Staff Attending:** Anjanae Brueland, Anna Gombert, Cynthia Spitler, Kathy Thompson, Kathleen Christy, Melinda Rust, Brennan LeQuire

**Visitors:** Angela Quick - Foundation for the Blount County Public Library; Bruce Robertson - Friends of the Blount County Public Library; Liz Schreck - Ocoee River Regional Library

**Guests:** Dick Burgess - Friends of the Blount County Public Library, Mark Pulliam, Laurie Pulliam, Michelle Hooper, Chris Arnett

**Call to Order:** Chair Andy Simon called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 20 July 2021 at 5:31 pm.

**Public Comments:** Mark Pulliam expressed concern over his perception that the library was acting as a social service agency for unhoused people. Michelle Hooper urged the board to consider the wishes of taxpayers in the community and to be cognizant of different viewpoints when making decisions .

**Approval of Minutes:** Susan Williams made a motion to approve the 22 June 2021 Meeting minutes. Stephanie Thompson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Andy Simon:**

- Andy reported that he and Anjanae met with the mayors and operations people of each funding body to discuss construction plans, including the roof repair, downstairs restrooms, automating the book drop, and a freight elevator.
- The board is still in need of new trustees to replace the members whose term ended in June.
- Andy informed the board about a phone conversation with Ed Harmon about a donation to the Youth Services department. Anjanae met with Chelsea Tarwater and Carrie Godfrey of the Youth Services department to create a proposal for Mr. Harmon.
- Andy and Anjanae answered questions from the board.

### **Report of Blount County Public Library Interim Director by Anjanae Brueland:**

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- The July 2021 Board Meeting Packet, which includes the Interim Library Director's Report and the Financial Report, was distributed by email prior to the board meeting.
- Anjanae gave background on the 2020-2022 Strategic Directions Report and asked that the board continue to put the Strategic Directions on hold until the new director is selected.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to put the 2020-2022 Strategic Directions on hold. Susan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Anjanae reported that as of 15 July, the community survey had received 73 responses, as of 18 July there were 154 responses, as of 19 July there were 222 responses, and as of 20 July there were 882 responses.
- Anjanae shared that she and Robert McClelland will meet on 23 July 2021 to discuss the focus groups.
- Anjanae discussed the financial report and statistics and answered questions from the board.

### **Report of Foundation Board, Angela Quick**

- The Foundation for the Blount County Public Library July 2021 Report was distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Angela Quick reported on the 12 July 2021 Foundation Meeting.
  - The Foundation heard from Andy and Anjanae about the community survey, the director search, fine free research, and upcoming capital projects.

### **Report of Friends of the Library, Bruce Robertson**

- Bruce Robertson gave an update on the Friends.
  - The teacher only sale will be held on 22 July from 2:30-6:00 pm.
  - The quarterly 3-day sales will resume the weekend after Labor Day.
  - Online sales continue to be strong, and the sales from the library lobby are getting stronger.
  - The community market has between 12-20 vendors every Saturday.
  - The new Friends board will meet next week.
  - There have been some issues with the recycling vendor.

### **Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck**

- The Ocoee River Regional Library July 2021 Report, and the READS FY 2020-21 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Liz shared that training sessions have resumed, both in person and online.
- The annual standards survey and the library service agreement have been distributed, and the official service area population document and Maintenance of Effort Agreement will be distributed soon.

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- Liz reminded the board that the ARPA grant has been combined with the tech grant for a combined \$2.5 million and has a reduced match. Blount County Public Library as a tier 5 library would have a 20 percent match instead of the usual 50 percent match.
- Liz shared information about the E-Rate Emergency Connectivity Fund.
- The region is considering holding the annual trustee workshop in person this year at the Art Circle Public Library on 28 September.

**Old Business**

- Stephanie Thompson shared an update from the Library Director Search Committee.
- The committee plans to post the job listing on 1 August 2021, with a deadline to apply on 1 September 2021.
- The top candidates will be invited to Blount County on October 14 and 15 for two days of events and interviews at the library.
- The proposed sex offender policy is in with the county attorney, and Anjanae hopes to have an update for the board by next month.

**New Business**

- Anjanae shared the Library Standards Survey that was submitted to the regional library as well as a policy review timeline.
- The timeline to review library plans and policies is to make sure they are up to date, reflect the community, and change language from punitive to inclusive.
- Old policies with the recommended changes will be included in the respective month's board packet.
- Anjanae explained information and research about fine free libraries that was included in the board packet and answered questions from the board.

**Funding Requests:**

- Anjanae presented the following Friends requests:
  - Annual Expenditure Request for Board Approval - \$79,000.00
  - Chalk Walk - \$500.00
  - Concert on the Lawn - \$1,000.00
  - Search Committee's Operating Budget for Director's Search - \$10,000.00
  - Book Drop Project - Concept Plan - \$3,000

Dawn Regan made a motion to approve the submitted funding requests for the Friends. Susan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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- Anjanae presented the following Foundation funding requests:
  - There were no Foundation Funding Requests for July 2021.

**Important Dates**

**Other Library Meetings**

Blount County Commission Meeting – 19 August 2021, 7:00 pm – BC Courthouse

Blount County Friends of the Library – 27 July 2021, 4:00 pm – via Zoom

Foundation for the Blount County Public Library - 13 August 2021, 8:30 am - via Zoom

Maryville City Council - 3 August 2021, 7:00 pm - Maryville Municipal Bldg

Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 10 August 2021, 7:00 pm - Alcoa Municipal Bldg-Virtual & Closed to the Public

**Motion to Adjourn:**

Dawn Regan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Library Board Meeting will be held on 17 August 2021, at 5:30 pm, in the Dorothy Herron Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Gombert