



Board of Trustees Meeting 18 May 2021 Minutes

Trustees Attending: Chair Andy Simon, Cathy Hammon, Lauren Emert, Logan Hill, Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela, Dawn Reagan, Susan Schneibel, Stephanie Thompson, Susan Williams

Staff Attending: Anjanae Brueland, Anna Gombert, Kathleen Christy, Cynthia Spitler, Kathy Thompson, Jennifer Spirko, Brennan LeQuire, Chelsea Tarwater, Melinda Rust

Visitors: Bruce Robertson - Friends of the Blount County Public Library; Liz Schreck - Ocoee River Regional Library; Andrew Jones - The Daily Times

Guests: Joan VanSickle Sloan, Mark Pulliam, Laurri Pulliam, Beth - Reform Blount Facebook Group

Call to Order: Chair Andy Simon called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 18 May 2021 at 5:31 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the 20 April 2021 Meeting minutes with corrections. Logan Hill seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lauren Emert made a motion to approve the 6 May 2021 Special Called Meeting minutes with corrections. Susan Schneibel seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Andy Simon:

- Staff members Jennifer Spirko and Chelsea Tarwater gave a presentation on the Youth Services department, including the types of materials in the department and different programs they put together.
- Andy explained that his quarterly review with the three funding bodies will continue next week. These reviews now also include the Parks and Recreation Department and the Chamber of Commerce.

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

- The May 2021 Board Meeting Packet which includes the Interim Library Director's Report, the Financial Report and the 2020-21 Library Use Statistics was distributed by email prior to the board meeting.
- Currently the library operates at 57 hours a week, and Anjanae would like to continue at that level for as long as possible.

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- Liz Schreck explained the regional library's guidance is that a decrease in operating hours is acceptable as long as it is due to Covid.
- There is no further guidance on when the library will be expected to resume 70 hours a week of operation. The waiver that could be used to extend limited operating hours does not apply to BCPL's situation. The waiver is only applicable if there is a cut to funding across the board.
- Andy expressed concerns about inoculation rates in the county and the health of library employees in regards to expanding hours.
- Cathy Hammon suggested the change in operating hours be reconsidered in three months, and Andy suggested discussing it every month.
- Anjanae discussed how departments will approach bringing back programs and answered questions about how an assessment of programs will be conducted.
- The library will assess staff's capacity for programming and get community input later on in the process.
- Anjanae asked the board to start thinking about what they want her priorities to be.
- There was a question from a guest about meeting rooms returning to full capacity.
- The board discussed staff safety and comfortability with interacting with full meeting rooms.

Lauren Emert made a motion to move to the meeting rooms to full capacity. Dawn Regan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Report of Foundation Board, Angela Quick

- There was no Foundation Report for May 2021.
- Angela Quick was unable to attend.

Report of Friends of the Library, Bruce Robertson

- Bruce Robertson gave an update on the Friends.
 - The Friends are finishing up board nominations, finalizing next year's operating budget, and working on a plan for cash status.
 - The Friends are also reworking the 2017/2018 strategic plan with updates and a new operating mode.
 - There are new Friends members to handle the financial and media aspects.
 - The community market is continuing every Saturday from 9 a.m - 12 a.m., with 24 total vendors signed up. The Friends ask vendors that five percent of sales from the market be given as a donation.

Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck

- The Ocoee River Regional Library May 2021 Report and the READS FY 2020-21 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.

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- Liz presented upcoming trainings and reminded everyone that summer reading programs are coming soon.
- She reminded the board that Executive Order No. 78, which allowed electronic public meetings, ended on April 28.
- Liz also reminded the board to think about board member recruitment to fill positions that will be vacant at the end of the fiscal year.
- Liz congratulated BCPL for winning 1 out of 50 spots for the Steve Spangler STEM workshop.
- The Tennessee State Library and Archives introduced legislation to dismantle and discontinue the use of regional boards, which passed at the end of April. The new legislation will take effect 1 July 2022.
- Liz suggested that the local board could be expanded to 9 to incorporate the 2 regional board members, or the 2 regional board members could be used to fulfill upcoming vacancies.

Old Business

- Andy reported that Susan Schneibel has written a letter of K.C.'s accomplishments, which will be sent to The Daily Times.
- Andy also reported on a meeting he had about compensation for the interim director. Compensation is the board's decision as long as it stays within the budget. No action was taken.

New Business

- The board postponed discussing a policy for employee grievances for a later meeting.

Funding Requests:

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

Important Dates

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 20 May 2021, 7:00 pm – BC Courthouse
Blount County Friends of the Library – 24 May 2021, 4:00 pm – via Zoom
Foundation for the Blount County Public Library - 11 June 2021, 8:30 am - via Zoom
Maryville City Council - 1 June 2021, 7:00 pm - Maryville Municipal Bldg

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Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 8 June 2021, 7:00 pm - Alcoa Municipal Bldg-Virtual & Closed to the Public

Motion to Adjourn:

Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Susan Williams seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Next Library Board Meeting will be held on 1 June 2021, at 5:30 pm, in the Dorothy Herron Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Gombert