

Minutes
Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board
Martinsville Library
August 19, 2020

Board members Jim Allen, Margaret Caldwell, Janet Demiray, Betsy Haskins, Bill Kirby, Bernice Scales, Mary Campbell Stromire, and Debbie Youngman were in attendance.

Also attending were Director Rick Ward and Interim Administrative Assistant George Gutshall.

Board member Kathy Hodges was unable to attend.

Call to Order:

Board Chair Betsy Haskins called the meeting to order at 12:05 and welcomed those in attendance.

Minutes:

The minutes from the July 22nd meeting in Patrick County were presented and Debbie Youngman moved that the minutes be approved, Mary Campbell Stromire seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

George Gutshall reviewed the library's financial report.

He reported that the account we are setting up with the Virginia Investment Pool is in the process of being finalized. He also thanked the Friends of the Library for their donation of \$5,000 that we used for the Summer Reading Program.

On a motion by Bernice Scales, seconded by Margaret Caldwell, the board unanimously approved the financial report.

Committee Reports:

Margaret Caldwell, on behalf of the Marketing Committee, had emailed Monica Hatchett with the Henry County School system to inquire about how the library could help connect with the Hispanic community in the area. We have an online library card registration that we are going to see if we can get translated into Spanish and the About Your Library Card folder that is currently available in Spanish will be updated.

Old Business:

Jim Allen reported there is an individual that has expressed interest in the old bookmobile. He will get in touch with Caviness Trucking to see about getting some new batteries installed.

New Business:

Rick Ward reported that the library had received a notice that we qualify for an Institute of Museum and Library Services/Library of Virginia subgrant in the amount of \$95,266 to spend on eligible items listed in the application. He and the staff will work on the application to submit by September 7th.

He also presented the BRRL COVID-19 Plan to the board and, on a motion by Janet Demiray and seconded by Bernice Scales, the board voted unanimously to adopt the plan.

Rick Ward reported that he and the branch managers were going to discuss reopening the library system on an appointment based model and possible try to start around the first of September. The board felt that this was too soon with the rise in the number of COVID-19 cases in the area. He said he would pass the information to the branch managers and delay reopening.

Board Chair Betsy Haskins said she was going to contact two prospective candidates to fill the empty board spots for the City of Martinsville to see if we could recruit them.

With the current pandemic ongoing, the board decided to schedule their meetings on a month-by-month basis with the next meeting being held at the Martinsville Library on September 16th.

Closed meeting under § 2.2-3711(A)(1) for discussion of personnel matters.

Mary Campbell Stromire moved that the board enter closed session, Margaret Caldwell seconded, and the board entered closed session.

Margaret Caldwell moved that the board leave closed session, Bernice Scales seconded, and the board left closed session.

All board members certified that the board discussed only the business for which they entered closed session.

Friends Report:

There was no Friend's report.

Director's Agenda:

Director Ward referred the board to the printed director's report.

He reported that the library system has now raised those staff members' salary that was below \$10/hr. up to that amount and those over that amount would receive a 2% raise. He thanked Interim Administrative Assistant George Gutshall for his hard work on the budget to make this possible.

Adjournment:

Margaret Caldwell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:20, Bernice Scales seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder
Rick Ward

Jim Allen
Secretary