

Minutes
Blue Ridge Regional Library Governing Board
Martinsville Library
August 18, 2021

Board members Rebecca Adcock, Margaret Caldwell, Rives Coleman, Betsy Haskins, Bill Kirby, Lora Mahaffey, Lewis Turner, and Debbie Youngman attended.

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

Board members Marty Gardner and Sherry Vestal were 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 21st meeting in Martinsville were presented and Lewis Turner moved that the minutes be approved, Margaret Caldwell seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report:

George Gutshall reviewed the library's financial report.

He noted that there were two reports in the board packet. One for last fiscal year and one for the new fiscal year. In the last fiscal year, we had a surplus that was used to increase the budgets for books and IT. We were also able to pay the architectural fees for the Bassett Expansion blueprints. On the expense side, we made increases due to the increase in the minimum wage.

For this fiscal year he reported that we had received our local funding from Patrick County and our first state aid payment. He noted that we have large expenses reflected in the report that are for annual subscriptions that we pay each year and also the cost of having the Martinsville roof repaired.

On a motion by Margaret Caldwell, seconded by Lewis Turner, the board unanimously approved the financial report.

Committee Reports:

Margaret Caldwell, reporting on behalf of the Marketing Committee, said they were starting the Speakers Bureau back up and already have a date to speak to the Altrusa Club. They are also collecting inspiring stories of how the library branches have helped patrons in the past year from the branch managers.

Old Business:

Rick Ward reported that Service Roofing finished the roof replacement at Martinsville on July 26th and we are now just waiting on it to be inspected to receive the warranty.

New Business:

A committee list will be sent to all the board members to see what committees they may want to serve on since there are so many new members.

Rick Ward reported that we are eligible for an ARPA grant through the Library of Virginia and he would like to use part of the funds to retrofit the bathrooms to touchless fixtures. We can use part of the money to buy the materials but would need to fund the labor. The board agreed through consensus to proceed.

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

Rives Coleman moved that the board enter closed session, Lewis Turner seconded, and the board entered closed session.

Lewis Turner moved that the board leave closed session, Rives Coleman 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:

Lewis Turner reported that the Friends will be sponsoring a car in the Bassett Heritage Day Parade to raise awareness of the Friends of the Library. He also asked the Director to have each branch put up signs saying that patrons could sign up to join the Friends at each location.

Director's Agenda:

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

He reported that we were going to receive funds from the Anne and Jack Zachary Memorial Fund that we are planning to purchase VR goggles for our patrons to use in the library.

He recognized Garry Clifton from the Patrick County branch for his 30 years of service. Garry was unable to attend the meeting.

Leandio Gravely made a presentation showing the programming for the past year that was very successful with positive feedback from our patrons. He also talked about upcoming programs for this coming year.

Adjournment:

Margaret Caldwell moved that the meeting be adjourned at 1:35, Lewis Turner seconded, and the meeting was adjourned.

Recorder
Rick Ward

Margaret Caldwell
Secretary