

Franklin County Library

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FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of the Meeting

8 October 2019

The Franklin County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at 9 am at the Main Library in Rocky Mount. Members present were Chairman Bill Mitchell, Keith Ferrell, Doug Pafford, Sarah Ann Bowman, Bethany Worley, Sharon Tudor and Director Alison Barry.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS: The Board reviewed and approved the statistical and financial reports provided by Director, Alison Barry.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director reported that this year's Summer Reading Program set another record for sign-ups: more than 1200!

The Director informed the Board that the library would be participating in a new program through the Library of Virginia: 1KTB4K: One Thousand Things Before Kindergarten. This totally free program assists with children's readiness for Kindergarten, emphasizing the importance of reading. For every 100 things done by a child, the child will receive a hardbound book from LVA.

The Director reported that work on the expansion of the Children's office space at the Main Library would begin by the end of the month. Friends of the Main Library will be contributing to the purchase of a new circulation desk.

The Adult Summer Reading Program, managed by staff member Tiffany Thaw, set a new record with 248 adult sign-ups who returned 1,971 reviews. Well-done Tiffany!

An interview with the Director about the Bookmobile was held by WFXR. Wayne and Coretta were praised by the Director for their hard work, with 12 backyard parties held, over 600 hot dogs served, as well as movie nights with Parks and Rec.

The Director reported that Wayne has been working to prepare the new Virtual Reality glasses and free VR programs for debut in the library in the near future.

The Director reported that the Friends of the Main Library will be represented at the Blue Ridge Folk Life Festival on Oct. 26, manning an old-time sandwich tent which is expected to be a great fundraiser for the Friends of Main.

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections for Library Board Officers were held, with the results:

Chair: Bill Mitchell

Vice-Chair: Sharon Tudor

Secretary: Keith Ferrell

The primary topic of new business continued to be the ongoing impasse between library administration and the Westlake Friends of the Library's decision not to adhere to the Library of Virginia's organizational rules for Friends groups, as well as the Westlake Friends' decision to retain an attorney to present their position to the Director. The Director shared complaints from the Westlake branch staff about contentious interactions with the Westlake Friends.

The Director made clear her desire to present to the Board of Supervisors a plan for reuniting the two Friends Groups, and their funds, into a single body to be known as the Friends of the Franklin County Public Library System.

Board Member Keith Ferrell introduced a motion that it be resolved that the Franklin County Library Board of Trustees formally supports the Director's intent to present a plan to the Supervisors for the consolidation of the two Friends Groups. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstention.

The Director and Board Chair Bill Mitchell were to meet with the acting county manager and present the Director's plans for consolidation of the Friends groups. A report on the meeting will be presented at the October Library Board Meeting.

Additionally, the current rent for the Westlake Branch--\$12,000/mo—was discussed, along with the fact that the rent is due to increase again next year. It was generally felt that this rent was too high, and that research should begin for a new location for the branch, either rented, purchased or built, and that the research should be pursued in earnest, with plans to be developed well before the next rent increase and lease extension, due in two years.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 am

Submitted by Keith Ferrell