



Trustees Attending: Stephanie Thompson, Greg Brakebill, Shawn Graham, Richard Fogg, Becca Wolfenbarger, Robert White, Dexter Stewart, Dawn Reagan

Staff Attending: Anjanae Brueland (BCPL Interim Director), Summer Dale

Visitors: Liz Schrek - Ocoee River Regional Library

Call to Order: Stephanie Thompson called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 21 January 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Dawn Reagan made a motion to approve the 5 November BOT Meeting minutes with corrections. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- Stephanie Thompson calls the meeting to order and welcomes everyone.
- Stephanie Thompson adds the election of a new chair to the agenda due to Lauren Emert's resignation.

Public Comment:

- The board heard comments from 0 members of the public.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair:

- Introduction of new Board Member and Term Information
 - Stephanie Thompson introduces new board member Robert White, who shares his background.
 - Stephanie Thompson discusses the upcoming terms of her and Lauren Emert's positions and the need for replacements as their terms are up in June.
 - Both seats are for Blount County representation.
 - Information on the recruitment process for new board members is provided, with a deadline for submissions set for March 1st.
 - Shawn Graham mentions the possibility of reappointment for his term.
- Update on the Director Search and Interview Process
 - Stephanie Thompson provides an update on the director search, mentioning the search committee and the number of applicants.
 - The Committee includes: Stephanie Thompson, Dawn Reagan, Richard Fogg, Becca Wolfenbarger, Judge Duggan, Jesus Ortega-Valenzuela, and Anna Graham.
 - The committee will interview six to eight candidates via Zoom on February 12th and 13th, with open meetings for the public.
 - Finalists will be invited to Blount County for interviews on March 12th and 13th, with staff and various stakeholders participating.



- The board needs to decide whether to discuss and make a decision during the March meetings or at the next regular meeting.
- A survey was sent out to various community leadership groups and government officials.
 - Summer Dale is working on compiling this information.
- Implementation of Inclement Weather Policy and Space Planning Presentation
 - Stephanie Thompson announces the implementation of a new inclement weather policy and thanks Anjanae for her efforts.
 - Discussion was had on the recommendations from the David Vinjamuri presentation on space planning and their implementation.
 - Anjanae Brueland explains the next steps for finalizing the report and implementing the recommendations.
 - We are looking for short-term and long-term goals with the first step being to finalize a strategic plan.
 - Shawn Graham and other board members express concerns about the timeline and prioritization of the recommendations.
- TCRS
 - Anjanae Brueland provides an update on the actuarial study being conducted to ensure consistency in benefits for library staff.
 - The has been completed but we are awaiting some documentation.

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

- The Board Meeting Packet, which includes the Library Director's Report, was distributed by email prior to the board meeting.
- Anjanae Brueland reports on the activities of the Youth Services department, including outreach programs and upcoming events.
- The "World on the Move" exhibit will be available from February 3rd to 28th, with programming themed around migration.
- Anjanae reports on programming in the Reference department including the Holly Jolly Jubilee's success and that staff member AJ Rowe was interviewed by WBIR for historical letters to Santa.
- The Quarterly Newsletter will be coming out in early February.
- Patron Services is planning for the new Automatic Materials Handling System.

Finance

- Anjanae Brueland reports that the library is tracking well financially, with revenues slightly above projections.
- The book return construction project is on schedule, with the pavement pouring expected soon.
- The Biblioteca crew will assist with setting up the automated material handler once it arrives.
- Stephanie Thompson and Anjanae Brueland discuss the new book return sign above the book return.
- Anjanae encouraged the Board to email her questions regarding Finance so that she has time to prepare before sharing them at the Board Meetings.



Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis Gardner was not in attendance.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Vandy Kemp was not in attendance.

Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck:

- The Ocoee River Regional Library Report, and the READS FY 2023-24 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Liz Schreck shared updates from the Regional Library.
- Liz provides an update on training opportunities and the importance of completing certification program modules.
- The technology grant spending ends on April 30th, and invoices are being processed.
- Liz offers to help board members register for certification program modules and encourages their completion.
 - If a Trustee would like to register please email Liz.

Old Business:

- The Community Board, Display, and Digital signage policy was discussed.

Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the Community Board, Display, and Digital signage policy. Shawn Graham seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- Local History and Genealogy Collection Development and Weeding Materials Policy was discussed.

Dexter Stewart made a motion to approve the Local History and Genealogy Collection Development and Weeding Materials Policy. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

New Business:

- **Funding Requests:**

- Friends Funding Request: Youth Services Tween Room Conversion
 - Anjanae Brueland presents a request from Youth Services to convert an office space into a tween room.

Shawn Graham made a motion to approve the Friends Funding Request for the Tween Room Conversion. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Additional Item added to the Agenda:

- **Board Chair Nominations**

- With Lauren Emert stepping down as Board Chair there were nominations for Greg Brakebill to fill this vacated position.
- Greg accepted the nomination.



Dexter Stewart made a motion to elect Greg Brakebill as the new Board Chair. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Additional Closing Comments:

- Greg Brakebill reads important dates for various meetings and events, including commission meetings and the next library board meeting.
- The meeting is adjourned without further comments or concerns.

Important Dates:

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 20 February 2025, 6:30 pm – BC Courthouse

Blount County Friends of the Library – 25 February 2025, 4:00 pm – BCPL

Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 21 February 2025, 8:00 am – BCPL

Maryville City Council – 4 March 2025, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg

Alcoa Board of Commissioners – 11 March 2025, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg

Next Library Board Meeting – 18 March 2025, 5:30 pm – Sharon Lawson Room

Motion to Adjourn:

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

The next Library Board meeting will be held on, February 18th at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale