

January 2022 Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Doran Stegura
Melody Puffenbarger
Alex Davis
James Stewart
Carol Turrentine
Dr. Jennifer Brown, Director

ABSENT: Betsy Curry
Debbie Sweeney, Assistant Director
Pam Carter, Board of Supervisors
K. Wayne Glass, Foundation Liaison

VIRGINIA: At a Regular Meeting of the Augusta County Library Board held at the Augusta County Library Fishersville, Virginia on January 27, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. and in the 245th year of the Commonwealth. . . .

Call to Order

The board meeting was held in person.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by chair, Doran Stegura.

Minutes

Carol Turrentine motioned to accept the minutes from the September 2021 and November 2021 meeting. James Stewart seconded the motion. The motion was passed

Friends of the Library

Ruthie Snyder and Jeanne Pitsenberger attended the Board meeting as representatives of the Friends of the Library. They reported that the Friends are moving toward being more active and conducting additional fundraising to support the library.

State of the Library

Many services are trending down since the beginning of the fiscal year, a common trend for public libraries during the colder months. Additionally the area has been experiencing COVID surges and community members may be choosing to stay home to mitigate their exposure.

Old Business

Beverly Manor representative to the Library Board is still vacant. Brainstormed on additional recruitment efforts such as contacting the schools to recruit potential candidates, Doran to contact Mr. Wells on behalf of the Library Board to emphasize the importance of having a representative from the area.

New Business

ACL and DSS Referral Partnership

Discussed the process, role and responsibilities libraries have when families are experiencing a crisis, knowing what resources are available in the community to refer families to who need support and when it is appropriate to contact the Department of Social Services. Agreed that continued training for staff is necessary so they know what resources are available. Dr. Brown was charged with reaching out to Staunton Public Library and Waynesboro Public Library to determine how they handle similar situations.

COVID Updates

There have been a number of staff who have fallen ill during the omicron surge. At this point in time Dr. Brown would like to keep the buildings open as long as possible. The measure to determine closures will be whether or not the library has adequate staff to support the building. If station managers in the more rural areas become ill, those locations will be closed temporarily. For Churchville Branch Library and Fishersville Main Branch, services levels will decrease to curbside should staffing levels not be able to support full services. Dr. Brown has ordered N95 masks to make available to all staff,

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[Table of Contents](#)

especially during times in which staff are in close contact with patrons for an extended period of time such as providing computer assistance.

Compensation

Dr. Brown answered questions regarding the new minimum salary requirements that will go into effect this year. Dr. Brown indicated that the Human Resources department is currently working to determine which positions will be impacted. The library's lowest positions will be impacted over time. Mr. Stewart provided feedback that it will be important to consider veteran staff and other positions to ensure equitable pay as the lower brackets pay rate rises. Dr. Brown also stated that the Human Resources department will also be conducting a compensation review in the near future for all county employees

Adjournment

With thanks expressed to Dr. Brown and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:47 pm. The next regular meeting will be held on March 24, 2022, at the Augusta County Library at 4:00 p.m.

Director