



March 2021 Meeting Minutes

PRESENT: Doran Stegura
Betsy Curry
Melody Puffenbarger
Carol Turrentine
Lynn Mitchell
Dr. Breyette Covington
Steve Morelli, Board of Supervisors
Diantha McCauley, Director
Dr. Jennifer Brown, Director
Debbie Sweeney, Assistant Director

ABSENT: James Stewart
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 March 25, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. and in the 244th year of the Commonwealth. . . .

Call to Order

In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Board meeting was held by electronic communication means using Zoom and phone calls as well as in-person attendees.

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by chair, Doran Stegura.

Delegations

None

Minutes

The minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting were approved as submitted.

Friends of the Library

The Friends are coordinating with Rachael Phillips to hold a book sale at the Fishersville library



during National Library Week. It will be held on April 8, 9 and 10 outside in the parking lot. They are working on having a sale at Churchville, too.

Current Friends' president, David Whitcomb, asked Jeanne Pitzenbarger to take over as president and she declined. He plans to next ask Leslie Hall.

Mary Helen Ayers, Friends Corresponding Secretary, passed away March 6, 2021. The family requested donations be made to the library and so far three donations have been received. Diantha McCauley attended her funeral on Saturday, March 13.

Committee Reports

None

State of the Library

A car crashed into the Middlebrook post office on February 9 causing significant damage to the post office but minimal damage to the library. The construction crew needed access to the post office through the library doors and use of the library's electrical outlet. Debbie Sweeney and Diana Decker temporarily blocked off the front door entrance to the library and relocated Curb service to the side entrance. The work was completed as of March 17.

Building issues impacted the Fishersville location when the Service Authority notified the library of a water leak somewhere in the building and on the same day half of the phones stopped working. County maintenance identified the leak problem and repaired the toilet in the upstairs men's room. The crew also discovered that the actual pipes did not match the plumbing schematics. The phone issue was due to a defective phone card. The ballfield half of the building was without phones for a few days until a replacement card could be identified, ordered, and installed.

Rachael Phillips completed weeding and shifting the adult non-fiction collection. The Special Collection is now on the main floor where the biographies were and the music CD's are at the end of the Special Collection shelves. Additional study space is planned for the mezzanine. Weeding the adult fiction collection is next.

Several staff attended the virtual ALA Midwinter meeting held at the end of January. Dr. Jill Biden's ALA address was shared with the staff at the February 4, 2021 staff meeting.



Ms. McCauley attended the Mt. 6 Directors' meeting via Zoom on February 19, 2021, and the Library Journal's Virtual Summit on February 23. Both provided helpful information on libraries coping with the pandemic.

Margaret Robison, Stuarts Draft Station Manager, will retire in April. Matthew Grant has been emergency appendectomy on March 24.

A potential donor for a Craigsville StoryWalk© came forward unfortunately the nearest county-owned park is in Augusta Springs.

The weather in February caused a number of closings and delayed openings. The General Assembly approved an extra \$1 million in state aid for libraries. The library will receive an extra \$10,308 this fiscal year.

To protect the controversial Dr. Seuss titles the library owns from being checked out and then sold on e-Bay they were checked out to a new patron, Dr. Seuss.

Library staff completed the transition to G Suite with the migration of staff email from Segra and Thunderbird. Using this and Slack should facilitate communications between staff at all library locations.

The hotspots are very popular and have circulated 118 times as of March 15. Matt Frenger is applying for an AARP Healthy Communities grant for more. Criteria has changed from 11 hotspots for the entire system to a limit of 11 per location.

The libraries initially decided to reduce the quarantine of returned items to four days starting March 1, but revised it to a 24-hour quarantine after new library guidelines were released from the Virginia Department of Health and Massanutten announced reopening their libraries.

Public computers in Fishersville were available by appointment starting March 8. The other Augusta County locations began this service on March 15. The electrostatic sprayer batteries were recalled so the sprayers will not be used until the batteries are replaced.

Staff who had not previously been vaccinated received their first Moderna vaccine on March 25 at the Government Center. Ms. McCauley has been working with the library directors from Staunton and Waynesboro on criteria for reopening and coordinating the services offered. Fishersville will have a soft (unadvertised) opening on April 19; all remaining Augusta County locations and Staunton will open April 26. Service hours at all locations will remain the same as they were for curbside services except for Deerfield which will be opening one day per week. No indoor programming is planned but staff are working on outdoor activities for the Summer Reading Program.



Correspondence

Copies of all correspondence are in the packet.

Old Business

Budget meetings went well. Ms. McCauley and Ms. Sweeney met with Finance on February 1 via Zoom and with County Administration on February 9. The HR director put the three promotion requests on her reclassification list in her budget. Tim Fitzgerald said to expect a flat budget for the coming year.

Doran Stegura presented the annual report and new Strategic Direction at the Board of Supervisors' work session on Monday, February 22.

New Business

Several of the Virginia public libraries using TLC's Library. Solution system decided to send a letter to the company president about the dissatisfaction with the company's lack of transparency and customer support this past year specific to problems with obtaining MARC records. The COO contacted Sarah Skrobis and presented their side of the issues. As of Monday, March 22 no one else has been contacted. VLC is contacting another source for the MARC (cataloging) records.

Revised Overdue Policy approved.

New Technology Plan distributed for consideration. It will be submitted for approval at the May meeting.

Adjournment

With thanks expressed to Ms. McCauley and there being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. The next regular meeting will be held on May 27, 2021, at the Augusta County Library at 4:00 p.m.

Secretary