

LIBRARY BOARD MEETING

August 9, 2018

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Libraries held a regular meeting on August 9, 2018, in the John Bridges Activity Room at Pack Memorial Library. Library Board Members present were Karen Dugas, Lindley Garner, Raymond Griffin, Michael McCue, Ruth O'Donnell, Amanda Smaridge, Stefan Stackhouse, Barbara Weatherall, and Linda Wilkerson. Also present were Buncombe County staff members Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager; Georgianna Francis, Library Director; Brandon Freeman, Buncombe County Staff Attorney; and Jeffrey Hamilton and Lynda Reynolds, State Library of North Carolina.

Mr. Griffin called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. He read the ethics reminder: *In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Board member to avoid both conflicts of interest and appearance of conflict.*

Mr. Griffin welcomed Jeffrey Hamilton and Lynda Reynolds from the State Library of North Carolina. He shared information from an article provided by Ms. Weatherall discussing Forbes Magazine's statement that Amazon will replace libraries and the backlash to that statement. He also thanked Ms. Francis for providing food for the Board meetings.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the July 12, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Ms. O'Donnell moved to approve the minutes with corrections. The motion passed.

Old Business:

Library Director Search Review and Update

Mr. Griffin reviewed the search process to date. The process has taken the pool of 72 candidates to 22 candidates, and phone interviews will narrow the field to the top six - nine candidates. Mr. Freeman spoke about changes to the phone interview process that was discussed at the July board meeting. He stated that interviews conducted by the Board will be closed sessions and all information reviewed in the interview process is confidential.

Legal Access to Trust Funds

Mr. Freeman discussed difficulties in accessing monies in the Trust Funds managed by the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina. He stated that an action could be filed with a Superior Court judge to ask for a ruling on access to the Funds, and that such an action has not been filed at this time.

Director's Report:

Ms. Francis shared information with the Board on a flash drive. This information is the background information that has been provided to the library director position applicants.

New Business:

Library Advisory Board Presentation – State Library of North Carolina

Jeffrey Hamilton and Lynda Reynolds, consultants from the State Library of North Carolina, shared information with the Board to enhance understanding of roles and responsibilities of board members and to increase comfort levels for advocating for quality public library service in Buncombe County. The presentation included an overview of legislation supporting libraries in North Carolina and state funding for public libraries, roles and responsibilities of advisory boards, and effective advocacy and lobbying to support public libraries. Mr. Hamilton also discussed the role of the Library Development section of the State Library, its mission, and different services provided by the Library Development consultants.

Board Discussion:

Mr. Holland reviewed the process for in person interviews of candidates. Ms. Francis will gather information about Board member availability for scheduling interviews. Board members are encouraged to submit possible questions for inclusion in the interviews. Mr. Griffin will collect those questions. Additional details about the interview process will be shared with board members as encrypted CONFIDENTIAL email documents.

Ms. O'Donnell requested information about the staff, Friends of the Library, and public survey questions. Survey questions will be reviewed by Buncombe County Human Resources and then posted for response.

Adjourn:

There being no further business, Ms. Smaridge presented the motion to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes Read and approved this the 13 day of September, 2018.


Raymond W. Griffin

Library Board Chair


Georgianna Francis

Library Director