

**Library Board Meeting  
January 10, 2019**

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Library held a regular meeting on January 10, 2019 in the John Bridges Activity Room at Pack Memorial Library. Library Board Members present were Karen Dugas, Lindley Garner, Ruth O'Donnell (by phone), Stefan Stackhouse, Barbara Weatherall and Linda Wilkerson. Also present were Jim Blanton, Library Director; Brandon Freeman, Buncombe County Staff Attorney; and Jim Holland, Assistant County Manager.

Mr. Garner (acting Chair) called the meeting to order at 6:30 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.*

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes of the September 13, 2018 regular meeting were reviewed. Mr. Stackhouse moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

The minutes of the November 15, 2018 meeting were reviewed. Ms. Dugas moved to approve the minutes. The motion passed.

**Old Business**

**Report on the status of the Library Trust Fund:** Brandon Freeman reported that efforts to take the trust fund approval to a Superior Court judge are moving forward. There is a plan and a timeline, but no certainty that the matter will be resolved in 2019. Mr. Freeman will continue to keep the Board apprised on this issue.

**New Business**

**Setting Library Board meeting times:** The Board discussed changing the regular Library Board meeting time to make the timing more convenient for public attendance. Mr. Stackhouse made a motion to amend bylaws section E, paragraph 1a. The Board approved changing the time to 6:30 p.m. The Board also amended the paragraph to say the Board will meet in odd numbered months, instead of every month.

**Discussion of adding public comment period to bylaws:** The Board discussed adding a public comments section to the Board meeting. Mr. Garner asked if comments would be at the beginning of the meeting or at the end, and asked if attendees needed to sign up to comment. Mr. Freeman said the Commissioners have comments at the beginning of meetings with a three-minute limit per person and no signups are necessary. The Chair must recognize any member of the public who wishes to speak. The Board can ask for additional time for any speaker. Jim Holland suggested also adding public comment before a vote. Mr. Stackhouse said he would favor a longer time limit for people testifying before the Board and Mr. Garner supported public comment before a vote.

Mr. Stackhouse made a motion to have the Board bylaws section E, paragraph 4a, 4b and 4c amended to the public comment language, and revised to match that adopted by the County Commissioners. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Dugas made a motion to allow public comment for the current meeting. The motion was approved.

### **Public Comment**

Sarah Gransee thanked Board for changing the meeting time to 6:30 p.m. so Library staff can attend Board meetings.

Tim Wallace gave a presentation on Library employee salaries. Mr. Wallace's report included extensive salary comparisons of Buncombe County Library employees to other County departments and other library systems.

Following Mr. Wallace's report, Mr. Holland discussed a recent salary and job position study by the County to reassess all County employees' job descriptions and pay grades. Ms. Weatherall expressed concerns that positions such as the Assistant Director were eliminated. Mr. Stackhouse asked the Library Director to come back to the Board with suggestions on what sort of statement by the Board could be helpful on these issues. Mr. Garner asked that financial data for the Library be made available in the Director's report.

### **Director's Report**

Library Director Jim Blanton presented a report on recent activities.

**Status of New East Asheville Library:** The public meeting on December 7 went well. Community members were pleased, although there were some comments on losing area in the adjoining playground. The Library is currently in discussions with City about moving the basketball court. The Commissioners approved funding of \$5.8 million for this project at their November 20 meeting. Library designs were submitted to technical review in January. The library plans go to the Asheville City Planning and Zoning Committee in February and to the City Council in March. Construction could begin in summer 2019.

**Renovation of the Enka-Candler Library:** A/V needs have been assessed for the new Enka-Candler meeting space. Mr. Blanton and the Enka-Candler staff will be meeting about furnishings. Mr. Garner said many residents are concerned because they wanted to be sure there will be plenty of meeting space at the library. Mr. Blanton pointed out this expansion is about meeting space for community meetings and Library programs. There will also be a quiet reading room added to the library with expanded space for children and teen materials.

**Budget Preparation:** The Library is currently preparing the budget submission for FY2019-2020. Focus items for this budget include staffing, training and outreach. The Library hopes to get funding for Collection HQ, which is a software that provides for evidence-based selection of collection materials.

**Children's Services Spotlight:** Mr. Blanton recognized Jesse Figuera, head of Youth Services at Pack Library. Ms. Figuera emphasized that services for children, teens and families is the foundation of what the Library does. Ms. Figuera distributed a packet of samples of children's services. Ms. Figuera finished by thanking the Board for all that they are doing to support the Library.

**Board Discussion**

Ms. Weatherall asked if any applicants had applied for the vacant Board position. Mr. Blanton said there were 10 applications. Mr. Blanton will work with staff to identify candidates to recommend for consideration and approval by the County Commissioners.

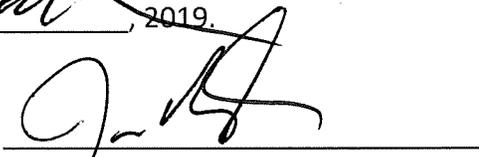
Mr. Garner asked that all Board members submit agenda items by emailing the Chair. The next Board meeting will be March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Pack Library

There being no further business, Mr. Garner adjourned the meeting.

Minutes Read and approved this the 14<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2019.



Raymond W. Griffin  
Library Board Chair



Jim Blanton  
Library Director