

**Library Board Meeting  
September 12, 2019**

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Library held a regular meeting on September 12, 2019 in the Activity Room at the Pack Memorial Library. Library Board Members present were Michael McCue (chair), Karen Dugas, Lindley Garner, Raymond Watson Griffin, Ruth O'Donnell, Stefan Stackhouse, Kay Wall, Barbara Weatherall, and Linda Wilkerson. Also present was Jim Blanton, Library Director and Michael Clark, Senior Accounting Technician.

Mr. McCue 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 July 11, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Lindley Garner asked to have his name corrected in the minutes. Moved to approve minutes by acclamation.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Board Discussion**

Mr. McCue began the discussion by reminding the board that they are the Advisory Board of the Library and encouraged the Board to share their ideas in a positive way. Mr. McCue asked to receive the minutes of the Board meetings in the week following the meeting. The Board agreed to this schedule.

Ms. Dugas spoke about the Friends of the Library and summarized the recent Friends meeting.

Mr. McCue asked the Board to attend the upcoming Board sponsored program on September 30. The event will feature a speaker, Georgia Coleman of the Richland Library, and follow her presentation with a community discussion about the library.

Ms. Weatherall circulated the most recent newsletter for United for Libraries, a project of the American Library Association. She will investigate online distribution for upcoming newsletters.

Mr. Blanton discussed the strategic plan being developed by the County Commissioners. All county departments are involved and the public will also be asked for feedback. Once the strategic plan is in place, the county departments will develop their own plans to support it.

Mr. Garner would like to create a certificate of appreciation for library employees. Mr. Griffin suggested a Board commendation for employees. The Board agreed this would be a good idea and would like to discuss it at a later meeting.

## **Director's Report**

Mr. Blanton recognized Youth Services Coordinator Jesse Figuera for her recent award from the NC Arboretum for contributions to the Arboretum's ecoExplorer program.

Mr. Blanton updated the Board on recent and upcoming capital projects. The Enka-Library renovation is complete except for new carpet and furniture. There will be an open house for Enka in October once the renovations are complete. The County has signed a lease on the new East Asheville Library with the City of Asheville. The County will lease the land from the City for \$1 a year for 99 years. The County will also relocate the playground, resurface the basketball court and install a crosswalk on Tunnel Road. There will be a farewell party sponsored by the Friends of the East Asheville Library for the old library building on September 28. The MSR architecture firm, which facilitated brainstorming sessions for reorganization of the space at Pack Library, has sent some concepts for staff reactions. The roof is being replaced at the Weaverville Library.

Mr. Blanton discussed the ongoing developments with the Student Access project, to allow students to use their school ID as a library card. Mr. Blanton also announced the Library now has a part-time homeless services outreach worker, Erin Cheek. She will work out of Pack Library, as well as visit other library branches, and provide staff training on services for patrons experiencing homelessness.

Mr. Blanton distributed copies of the Library budget revenues and expenditures to date.

## **Old Business**

Mr. Stackhouse asked for an update on the status of access to the Library Trust Fund. Mr. Blanton had nothing new to report. Ms. O'Donnell reminded the Board of the Library Advocacy program hosted by the Friends of the Library on October 3. Ms. Wilkerson is meeting with Mr. Blanton to discuss forming a Board committee on fundraising and advocacy.

Ms. Dugas presented the draft letter she wrote to the County Commissioners thanking them for funding the Enka-Candler Library renovation. The Board approved the draft by acclamation. Mr. Blanton will send the letter and cc Avril Pender, County Manager and Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager.

## **New Business**

Mr. Blanton informed the Board that the Buncombe County Finance Department has asked for the Board to review a proposal for the Library to write off all fines and fees older than three years.

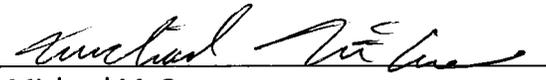
Ms. O'Donnell moved that the Board agree to recommend writing off the unpaid fines and fees as long as that loss is not charged to the Library budget. Mr. Garner proposed that the Board should reword the motion to be more specific. Ms. O'Donnell withdrew her motion. Ms. Wall motioned to table action on the fines and fees until November to form a complete recommendation. Mr. Stackhouse and

Ms. Wilkerson volunteered to work with Mr. Blanton develop the motion to be presented at the November meeting.

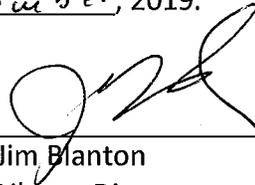
Mr. McCue reminded the Board of the November 14 meeting at the Enka-Candler Library. Per previous agreement, Board meetings will alternate between Pack Library and branch libraries. Mr. McCue asked that Board members email him the topics they would like to discuss for any meeting.

Mr. Griffin moved to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Dugas seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

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



Michael McCue  
Library Board Chair



Jim Blanton  
Library Director