

**Library Board Meeting
November 14, 2019**

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Library held a regular meeting on November 14, 2019 at the Enka-Candler Library. Library board members present were Michael McCue (chair), Karen Dugas, Lindley Garner, Ruth O'Donnell, Stefan Stackhouse, Kay Wall, Barbara Weatherall, and Linda Wilkerson. Also present was Jim Blanton, Library Director and Brandon Freeman, County Attorney.

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 September 12, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Moved to approve minutes by acclamation.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Board Discussion

County Attorney Brandon Freeman pointed out several minor typos in the Board Bylaws including asking for clarification on the correct name of the Board. Mr. Freeman will follow up with these issues, and he will issue new bylaws with these minor errors corrected. He recommended that the Board adopt the same bylaws as all other County boards. Mr. Stackhouse suggested that the Board consider creating a mission statement to go along with the bylaws.

The Board discussed their September 30 event with speaker Georgia Coleman. Ms. Weatherall was pleased with the turnout and Mr. Blanton said it was a great visioning opportunity for staff. Ms. Weatherall also reported on the workshop for Library advocacy given by Ms. Wall and Ms. O'Donnell.

Ms. Wilkerson reported on a meeting between her and Mr. Blanton to discuss fundraising and advocacy. They discussed the possibility of creating a Library foundation. Mr. Freeman pointed out that there could be a path forward for accessing the Trust Fund by re-convening the previous Trust Fund Board which was never formally dissolved. Membership of that Board included the Chair of the Library Board, the Chair of the Friends of the Library and the Library Director. Mr. Freeman and Attorney Michael Frue are pursuing the option to reactivate the Library Trust Fund Board and will report on their findings.

Director's Report

Abby Moser gave a presentation on the Preschool Outreach Program. All Board members were in favor of supporting this great Library outreach program.

There was a discussion surrounding fees for meeting room use, specifically if Friends of the Library groups can hold fundraisers in Library meeting rooms. Ms. Dugas will attend the next Friends meeting and poll the Friends members on their meeting room use.

There will be an open house on Monday, November 18 for the newly renovated Enka-Candler Library and everyone is invited. The East Asheville Library bid process has concluded and the construction manager has delivered cost estimates. General Services intends to present the information to the Commissioners for a vote at their December meeting.

Mr. Blanton reported on a meeting with the Buncombe County Bar Association about possible reorganization of the County Law Library. He reported that the Student Access project with Buncombe County Schools has started successfully and talks are beginning with Asheville City Schools to duplicate the project there.

Mr. Blanton showed a walkthrough of Pack Library developed by MSR Architects. There is a visioning project for downtown going on right now and Mr. Blanton is a part of these meetings. Mr. McCue asked that the minutes reflect that no one on the Board is satisfied with Pack Library in its current configuration. Talks on the re-visioning of Pack Library will continue.

There was a general discussion of the potential boycott of MacMillian ebooks.

Old Business

Mr. Stackhouse and Ms. Wilkerson developed a draft resolution concerning the request from the Buncombe County Finance Department to clear any Library fines older than three years. Mr. Stackhouse made a motion to accept resolution, Ms. Wilkerson seconded.

Mr. Freeman advised that resolutions are an ineffective way to communicate Board actions. He suggested that the Board instead vote to direct Mr. Blanton to write a letter on behalf of the Board, authorizing County Finance to clear fines older than three years. The Board discussed and decided to pursue the letter option. A vote was called on the draft resolution motion and the motion failed 7-1.

Ms. O'Donnell moved to recommend to Buncombe County Finance that they clear all Library fines over three years, and further asked the Library Director to relay such a recommendation to the County Finance Director by letter. The motion passed. Mr. Blanton will provide the Board with a copy of the letter at the next meeting.

New Business

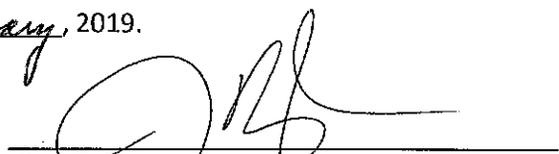
The Board agreed to move new business discussions to their upcoming January meeting.

Motion to adjourn by acclamation.

Minutes read and approved this the 9th day of January, 2019.



Michael McCue
Library Board Chair



Jim Blanton
Library Director