Library Board Meeting
January 9, 2020

The Library Board of the Buncombe County Public Library held a regular meeting on January 9, 2020 at Pack Memorial Library. Library board members present were Michael McCue (Chair), Karen Dugas, Lindley Garner, Ray Griffin, Ruth O'Donnell, Stefan Stackhouse, Barbara Weatherall, and Linda Wilkerson. Also present was Library Director Jim Blanton.

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 November 9, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Moved to approve minutes by acclamation.

Public Comment

Sarah Gransee requested that the Board look at the timing of the public comment section of the agenda. Ms. Dugas supported the idea and Mr. McCue added the issue to new business on the agenda.

Board Discussion

The Board had a general discussion about library programming and the possibility of securing a regular budget appropriation for programming for the library system.

Director's Report

Erin Makara Parcels gave a presentation on adult programming at Pack Library. Exercise space and art classes are two of the most popular types of programs. There are plans to turn the current computer lab at Pack Library into a studio space for public use. One of the major obstacles for programming at Pack Library is the lack of free parking.

Mr. Blanton reported that there were four retirements from the library system in December. Jesse Figuera has accepted the position as Manager of the Weaverville Library, the other positions are in the process of being filled.

Mr. Blanton updated the Board on the East Asheville Library project. Groundbreaking for the new building is anticipated to take place in March.

Mr. Blanton circulated a draft letter to County Finance. The Board had requested a letter to go to the County Finance Department with regards to writing off all library fine debt older than three years. The Board suggested minor edits. Mr. Griffin moved that with the edits that the letter be approved. The motion passed.

Old Business

Mr. Blanton reported that he and Board Member Karen Dugas met with County Attorney Michael Frue and Julie Klipp Nicholson of the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina to discuss reactivating the Library Trust Fund Board. The Board will be reactivated with three existing members, Ms. Dugas, Mr. Blanton and Michael McCue. They will meet to discuss filling the remaining seats. The Trust Fund Board is a private organization independent of Buncombe County Government.

New Business

The Library Board discussed the possibility of authorizing the Library to stop collecting overdue fines on materials. Mr. Blanton outlined a proposal. Mr. Stackhouse motioned that the Board authorizes the Library to stop collecting overdue fines contingent on the County's budget process. Library fines would no longer be collected as of July 1, 2020. Ms. Dugas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Library Board has three upcoming vacancies. The County requires that all open seats be advertised and Board members who would like to continue serving must reapply. Mr. Stackhouse asked about changes in County districts and how that would affect Board seats. Mr. Blanton will ask about districts and report back to the Board. The Board does not select Board members, applications will be submitted to the County Commissioners.

The Board discussed modifying the public comment section of their meeting. Ms. O'Donnell moved that public comment stays first on the agenda, but the Board will allow people to make a comment at other points in the discussion. The Chair will inform public that they can request to speak at other times during the agenda. Ms. Dugas seconded the motion. Mr. Stackhouse suggested that motion is flexible and can be adjusted. The motion passed.

Ms. O'Donnell pointed out that the United for Libraries Institute is offering a free conference in Philadelphia on January 25 for Library Friends and Trustees. Mr. Stackhouse informed the Board that the Black Mountain Friends of the Library is looking for a volunteer to create a website for the group.

The Chair reminded the Board of the March 12 meeting which will be at the West Asheville Library. Motion to adjourn by acclamation.

Minutes read and approved this the 20th day of October, 2020.

Ruth O'Donnell
Ruth O'Donnell
Library Board Chair

Jim Blanton
Library Director