

**Loudon County Library Board Meeting  
Thursday, Sept. 5th, 2024  
Philadelphia Public Library**

**Call to Order:** 5:03pm by Substitute Chair Cindy Benefield

**Present:**

**Trustees:** Cindy Benefield, Eileen Connolly, Brandy Styer, Brenda Lutz and Beth Waldmann  
**Excused:** Ruth McQueen, JoAnn Hart and Pauline Barbour

**Directors:** Mark Williams, Martha Guldán and Gina Geremia

**Ocoee River Regional Library Representative:** Nikki Snyder

**Introductions:** Benefield asked all in attendance to share the best gift they've ever received.

**Approval of Agenda:** Styer moved to approve the agenda. Connolly seconded.

**Public Comment:** None

**Approval of June 27th, 2024 Meeting Minutes:** Styer moved to approve the minutes. Lutz seconded.

**Ocoee River Regional Library Report:** Snyder reported a trustee workshop will be held on September 25<sup>th</sup> at the Art Circle Public Library in Crossville. Registration needs to be done in advance. Snyder told the library directors the final due date for the Annual Public Library Survey is the end of October. The data is used for federal funding. The library directors will ask county officials for the necessary financial information for the survey. Snyder passed out trustee certification certificates to Styer and Connolly. Williams and Guldán also received two certificates each for recent training.

**County Liaison:** No report.

**Library Directors' Reports:** Reports attached with no additions.

**RiverFest Report:** Outreach committee chair Waldmann thanked Lutz, Benefield and Brewster for helping with the library board booth at the RiverFest in Loudon. There were 110 visitors to the booth. The giveaways were great conversation starters about our libraries. Waldmann said she encouraged many people to come "check us out." Waldmann also helped a lady troubleshoot some problems with Libby. Waldmann asked for suggestions and ideas to improve the booth next year. Clabough, while not in attendance, had already suggested games to engage children and prepared prize grab bags. Styer suggested stakes for the tent. Lutz suggested story times. Other ideas included giving the table a theme and bringing books related to the theme, a giant Connect 4 game, a prize wheel and a tablet to sign people up for library cards.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Budget:** No report.

**Bylaws:** No report.

**Community Outreach:** Committee chair Waldmann gave an update on the proposed storybook trail in Loudon. She said Clabough is serving on a committee to bring a historic walking trail to the Loudon. After discussing Waldmann and Clabough decided it was best to let that play out and then approach the town about adding the storybook trail to that walking trail. Waldmann also offered to help any of the library directors with outreach efforts at their libraries.

**Personnel Committee:** Volunteers are needed to serve on the personnel committee. Williams volunteered to be the library director representative. Benefield and Lutz also volunteered to serve. The board will check to see if Strever would like to serve on the personnel committee again. The committee will be reviewing the library director self-evaluations. Those self-evaluations will be due on Wednesday, Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>. The personnel committee will give a report about the self-evaluations to the library board at the November 7<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Substitute Secretary:** Waldmann will be out of town for the next library board meeting on November 7<sup>th</sup>. Benefield has volunteered to serve as secretary during Waldmann's absence.

**Other Business:**

**Lenoir City Library Closure**—Benefield said Lenoir City Public Library director Dorsey made the request for a temporary closure in October. During that time, county workers would be installing new shelving. Dorsey and library staff will also be conducting an inventory during that time. Dorsey also requested the Lenoir City Public Library's closure on December 3<sup>rd</sup> for staff training. Styer made a motion, "I move that the board approves the Lenoir City Library's closure for no more than one week during the month of October while shelving is installed as well as December 3<sup>rd</sup> for staff training." Waldmann seconded. The motion passed.

**Board Meeting Date:** The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, November 7th at Loudon Public Library.

**Adjournment:** 5:58pm

Respectfully Submitted,  
Beth Waldmann, Secretary

**Attachments:**

Library Director Reports