

Loudon County Library Board of Trustees Minutes

November 7, 2024 5:00PM

Loudon County Library

Attendees:

Trustees: Ruth McQueen, Cindy Benefield, Pauline Barbour, Eileen Connolly, Brenda Lutz, Brandy Styer

Directors: Kate Brewster, Gina Geremia, Martha Guldán, Mark Williams

Ocoee River Regional Library Rep: Nikki Branam-Snyder

The meeting was called to order by President Ruth McQueen and the agenda was approved. There was no public comment. The President asked that all in attendance share the best gift they had ever given.

After distributing copies of Tennessee Standards for Public Libraries 2024 for each of the five libraries, the Ocoee River Regional Report was given by Nikki Brannan. None of the findings from the standards survey were out of the ordinary. On November 14 all directors will attend the Vendor Showcase. Baker/Taylor will not be a partner this year. It will be a great time to order from Ingram as the rep is a former regional employee and familiar with all the processes. As for upcoming deadlines, Tellico Village is the only one with a tech grant. The Maintenance of Effort approval has been signed by our President and is on its way to the state for approval. Certificates for completion of workshops and professional development activities were distributed to both trustees and directors.

Eileen Connolly and Brenda Lutz attended the September 25 training in Cookeville and brought back an increased understanding of handicapped/special needs and the importance of MOEs. Without a sustained MOE patrons would lose access to Libby and all state services would be suspended. The MOE cannot be reduced and protects library funding from political whims.

There was no County Liaison report.

Library Report Highlights:

Loudon: Working on Reinvigoration. Three holiday story hours are planned. (Also November 24 at 2:00PM Kate and Jim will be at the site on the Guider farm to tell about the skirmish at Huff's Ferry described in their book Cabbages and Caissons)

Lenoir City: Finished their remodel; 18 preschoolers received outreach

Greenback: Punching Golden Tickets for the school wide One Book, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory brought in lots of traffic and new patrons. The vacuum was fixed.

Philadelphia: Attended Professional development in Johnson City; WIFI and reference numbers doubled from last year.

Tellico: Friends sponsored a wine and cheese reception attended by 150 providing an opportunity for feedback and patron introductions. A scavenger hunt for facts about the library was a hit. Both will likely be repeated.

There were no standing committee reports.

New business: Ruth McQueen will work with the press to make a splash for National Library Week April 6-April 12, 2025. The slogan is “Transforming Lives, Strengthening Communities” The National Volunteer Week is April 21-27. We need to recognize our volunteers and Ruth is contacting Points of Light to possibly highlight Friends and volunteers.

ACTION ITEM: Watch Jamie la Rue on You Tube. How to Tell a Library Story.

Director Evaluations will occur in early 2025. Self-evaluations are complete. The same committee does not have to conduct all evaluations. One evaluator should be the area representative and the other from the committee.

The January meeting will be January 2, 2025 at the Lenoir City library.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Benefield for Beth Waldman