

Loudon County Library Board Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 2nd, 2025
Lenoir City Public Library

Call to Order: 5:10pm by Chair Ruth McQueen

Present:

Trustees: Cindy Benefield, Eileen Connolly, Brenda Lutz, Beth Waldmann, Pauline Barbour and Diane Strever

Excused: Brandy Styer & JoAnn Hart

Directors: Mark Williams, Martha Guldán, Susan Dorsey and Kate Brewster

Excused: Gina Geremia

Ocoee River Regional Library Representative: Liz Schreck

Public Comment: None

Introductions: McQueen asked all in attendance to share their earliest memory.

Approval of Agenda: Lutz moved to approve the agenda. Strever seconded.

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

Approval of September 5th, 2024 Meeting Minutes: McQueen reported an oversight. The board did not approve the September Library Board meeting minutes. Benefield moved to approve the minutes. Barbour seconded.

Ocoee River Regional Library Report: Several training sessions are coming up including E-Rate Basics and Disaster Planning and Response. A reminder for trustees to complete the certification process and to clean out any board notebooks. Waldmann asked what should be done with the hard copies of the meeting minutes. Digital versions are available on the Loudon County government website. McQueen is checking to see if the past minutes can be housed at the county government building. The READS statistics were shared. Numbers often tick up in December due to new devices and more time. Occasionally, the opposite can occur and READS statistics can go down because people are busy that time of year.

County Liaison: No report.

Library Directors' Reports: Reports attached with additions below.

Lenoir City Public Library: Dorsey provided an update on the part needed to repair the library heater. County maintenance has ordered the part and hopes it will be delivered soon. County gave approval to close the library with the expected frigid temperatures.

Loudon Public Library: Clabough reports tech related help for patrons is filling her time instead of her regular library duties. Possible solutions could be trained volunteers or a grant to help train the public.

Tellico Village Public Library: Strever reported Geremia is very good with volunteers and public. Strever said Geremia has been moving furniture and the collection, which has been well-received. Strever also said Geremia is not afraid to call and ask for help whether its fellow library directors or Ocoee Regional staff.

Board Members Update: McQueen gave an update on the status of board members terms and shared that Hart is stepping down from her role as representative for the Lenoir City Public Library. McQueen received Hart's letter of resignation. Waldmann moved to accept and approve Hart's resignation. Connolly seconded. Dorsey recommended Eileen Reed as Hart's replacement. Reed has been volunteering at the Lenoir City library for the past year as the preschool story time reader. Dorsey reports that Reed knows the Lenoir City library well. Benefield moved to recommend Reed to Loudon County Commission. Commissioners will vote to approve the board's recommendation. Strever seconded. Reed will finish out Hart's term. As for other board members, Benefield will finish her second term on July 1, 2025. Barbour will be finishing her term but will not be serving a second term. Waldmann will complete her second term in July 2027.

Standing Committee Reports:

Budget: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Outreach: No report.

Personnel Committee: No report.

National Library Week: McQueen has asked library directors to share at least one library success story that can be used to promote our Loudon County libraries during National Library Week. The goal is to enhance the image of our libraries. The deadline for the stories is March 1st.

Library Funding Request: McQueen wants to take a funding request for all county libraries to the Loudon County Commission Budget Committee. McQueen asked the library directors to prioritize one issue. McQueen asked as we get closer to the budget meeting date for trustees to reach out to their elected commissioners. The budget meeting date has not been set yet. McQueen will alert the board when it has been set.

Director Evaluations: Before Christmas the library directors turned in their self-evaluations. Now the personnel committee will begin scheduling meetings with them.

Other Business: None.

Board Meeting Date: The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, March 6th at Lenoir City Public Library.

Adjournment: 6:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Waldmann, Secretary

Attachment:

Library Director Reports