

**Loudon County Library Board
Meeting Minutes
May 1, 2025
Greenback Public Library**

Call to Order: 5:04pm by Chair Ruth McQueen

Trustees: Pauline Barbour, Cindy Benefield, Eileen Reed, Brenda Lutz, Diane Strever, Brandy Styer & Beth Waldmann

Absent (Excused): Eileen Connolly

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

Absent (Excused): Gina Geremia

Ocoee Regional Library Representative: Liz Schreck

Approval of Agenda: No additions to agenda.

Public Comment: None

Introductions: Ruth McQueen asked all in attendance to share their name, board position and recent joyful moment.

Approval of Minutes: Board members were given written copies to review. McQueen and Benfield noted the director reports were not in the hard copies that were passed out. Those director reports had been emailed to board members at an earlier date. Lutz moved to approve; Reed seconded.

Ocoee River Regional Report: Schreck shared the training opportunities being offered. She reminded library directors that the tech grant opened today. It is a 50/50 matching grant and the grant process is now paperless. With new members on the Loudon County Library Board, Schreck went over the trustee certification process. McQueen shared that our libraries have advantages when all trustee members are certified.

County Liaison: No report.

Budget Update: McQueen worked to find out when the Loudon County budget committee was going to discuss funding for our libraries. McQueen had difficulty getting that information from the county. McQueen said the budget committee has daily meetings for about a month in the spring.

Library Director Reports: Attached.

Standing Committee Reports:

Outreach Committee: Waldmann will reach out to the Suburbia Woman's Club to see if the library board can have a booth at the Lenoir City Arts & Crafts Festival in June.

Personnel Committee Report: Benefield, chair of the Personnel Committee, said the evaluations of the library directors were positive and the process was productive. Benefield noted that any issues the libraries are experiencing is a direct result of funding issues.

Director Position Update: Benefield reminded the board that Brewster is leaving her position as library director of the Loudon Public Library. McQueen and Benefield said the county would prefer to promote from within the library. Cora Smith is currently a part-time worker at the Loudon Public Library. McQueen said Smith has submitted her application to the county. An interview will take place. McQueen estimates that by July 1st Smith will in place as the new library director of Loudon Public Library.

Board Members Election: Both Benefield and Barbour will be leaving the board, which leaves two openings. Williams suggested Cindy Crawford to fill Barbour's position as the representative of the Philadelphia Public Library on the board. Crawford is currently an alderman on Philadelphia City Council, a social studies teacher and a supporter of the Philadelphia Library. Barbour made the motion that the board will recommend Crawford to Loudon County Commission. Strever seconded. The recommendation passed unanimously. Now it will go to Loudon County Commission for approval.

Guldan suggested Teresa Kidd to fill Benefield's vacancy on the board as a representative of the Greenback Public Library. Kidd is a psychologist, former CEO and supporter of the Greenback Library. Benefield made the motion that the board will recommend Kidd to Loudon County Commission. Styer seconded. The recommendation passed unanimously. Now it will go to Loudon County Commission for approval.

National Library Week and National Volunteer Week: McQueen wrote an article as part of National Library Week that was featured in the Loudon County News-Herald. The article had a prominent position above the fold. The article McQueen wrote for National Volunteer Week has not yet appeared in the News-Herald.

Summer Reading Program: McQueen will share another article with the Loudon County News-Herald about the upcoming summer reading programs at our Loudon County libraries. McQueen asked the library directors to submit their summer reading program plans for the article.

Imagination Library: No update at this time.

Other Business: None.

Celebrate Retiring Members: McQueen thanked Benefield and Barbour for their work on the board. McQueen presented both with a gift.

Next Meeting Date: McQueen noted that the July meeting will fall on July 3rd. Since it is so close to a holiday weekend, McQueen wanted to check to see if that date would work with everyone's schedules. Styer made the motion to move the July library board meeting to Thursday, July 10th. Waldmann seconded. The motion carried. The meeting will be held at the Philadelphia Public Library.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm.