

Franklin County Library

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Alison Barry
Director

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FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of the Meeting

14 May 2019

The Franklin County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, April 9, 2019 at 9 am at the Main Library in Rocky Mount. Members present were Chairman Bill Mitchell, Keith Ferrell, Sharon Tudor, Doug Pafford, Bethany Worley, John Leary and Director Alison Barry. Sarah Ann Bowman was unable to attend, and had notified the board in advance of her absence..

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS: The Board reviewed the statistical and financial reports provided by Director, Alison Barry.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

The Director reported that the library is doing well financially with expenditures on-target and within budget for the fiscal year.

Library public events continue to be well-attended and enthusiastically appreciated—not just by library patrons. At its annual meeting the Virginia Public Library Directors Association made special recognition of the Franklin County Library Systems success in outstanding public programs.

The Library Board, needless to say, extended warm congratulations and appreciation to the Director, and to Christine Arena, programming coordinator, for this statewide acknowledgment of the library's success in outreach programming. It is gratifying to hear that people outside the county—and professional peers of our Director—know what we in Franklin County know: we have an outstanding library system, with an outstanding administrative team and staff leading it.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Director reported that library staffing is at desired levels for the first time in years, with all positions filled. In terms of staffing, the Director noted that the library system is in great shape for the summer and going forward.

New public computers are being installed in both branches.

A decision on a public coffee kiosk for the main branch has been deferred until later in the year.

T-shirts for this year's Summer Reading Program are being designed, with phot-sensitive, glow-in-dark ink a possibility for the design.

Board member Bethany Worley, newly named Director of the Blue Ridge Institute, discussed the library having a presence at this year's Folk Life Festival (held at Ferrum College, Oct. 26), and it was agreed that library

board members who wished to could volunteer to help cook and serve country sandwiches (fried bologna, thick and hot!), with proceeds going to the Library Friends.

On the topic of Friends of the Library, the Westlake Branch Friends have yet to resolve their loss of 501 c (3) tax status earlier in the year due to failure to file necessary forms in a timely manner. Loss of that tax status has severely constrained the Westlake Friends' ability to raise or disburse funds in service of the branch. The annual Westlake Friends Book Sale has been canceled as a result of the status-loss, and until the situation is resolved and 501 c (3) status reinstated, other Friends-supported programs and expenditures at the Westlake Branch will be deferred, put on hold or canceled altogether. The Director made clear to the Westlake Friends the seriousness of this situation, which has gone on for months, and firmly requested that it be resolved as quickly as possible.

Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 am

Submitted by: Keith Ferrell