

## Franklin County Library

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Alison Barry  
Director

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### **FRANKLIN COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES Minutes of the Meeting**

**9 September 2019**

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

**FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS:** The Board reviewed and approved 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 continuing on-target and within budget for the fiscal year.

This year's Summer Reading Programs (children and adult) have built upon prior successes and continue to thrive and be very well-received.

The Director shared a very complimentary front-page article from the *Franklin News-Post* about the Library System's Bookmobile and the popular programs, including backyard parties and other special events. The Director enthusiastically made clear that the Bookmobile program's successes and popularity with patrons was the result of the efforts of Wayne Keith and Coretta Waller, and she extolled their virtues both as members of the library staff and also as representatives of the library system to the county's residents.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

The main topic of discussion was ongoing issues with the Westlake Branch Friends of the Library, and the consistent problems that group has exhibited in adhering to the rules and by-laws for such groups as established by the Library of Virginia and explained to officers of the Westlake Friends by both the Director and a representative of The Library of Virginia.

Because of the consistent and ongoing issues, the Director presented a list of items and actions for the Westlake Friends to enact in order to bring the group into compliance with state requirements. The officers of the Westlake Friends refused to take the requested actions and retained an attorney to represent them and their refusal.

During the July Board meeting consolidation of the Westlake Friends and, any funds the Westlake Friends are holding in their account, with the main Friends of the Library was discussed (at some length). The

consolidation would take place by order of the Director, and the consolidated body would be known as the Friends of the Franklin County Library System. A motion to call formally for that consolidation was considered but after discussion was not introduced to the Board at the time.

Rather, it was agreed by the Board that the Director should turn the matter over to the acting County Manager and the County attorney.

It was further agreed by the Board, and made clear to the Director, that the Board regretted the actions of the Westlake Friends, and that dealing with their recalcitrance—and, in the case of retaining an attorney, truculence and combativeness—was a matter for county administration consideration, and the Director had more than fulfilled her responsibilities, and done so admirably, when confronted with this situation. It was agreed by the Board, and made clear to the Director, that too much of her time (and that of the Westlake Branch's manager) had been taken up by this matter.

The Director agreed to provide the acting County Manger with the information and relevant documents, and to report the outcome and decision on further action to the Board at the September 2019 meeting. (There was no Board meeting scheduled for August 1019.)

Meeting adjourned at: 10:00 am

Submitted by Keith Ferrell