



Trustees Attending: Greg Brakebill, Dawn Reagan, Shawn Graham, Becca Wolfenbarger, Richard Fogg, Robert White

Staff Attending: Anjanae Brueland - Interim Director (via Zoom), Summer Dale

Visitors: Vandy Kemp - Friends of the Blount County Public Library, Liz Schrek - Ocoee River Regional Library

Call to Order: Greg Brakebill called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 18 February 2025 at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the 21 January BOT Meeting minutes. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

- The board heard comments from 0 members of the public.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg Brakebill introduces himself as the new Board Chair.
- Greg mentions that the Board of Trustees is working on new members, with four or five people in contention.
- The library may be closed due to weather, following the county government schedule.
- Dawn Reagan is asked to report on the new director search.

New Director Search Report

- Dawn Reagan reports that the search committee narrowed down candidates to seven semi-finalists, interviewed them via Zoom, and selected four finalists.
- She explained that this process was enjoyable as everyone was like-minded.
- The finalists will visit Blount County on March 12 and 13, and the library will be closed on March 12 for staff to meet the candidates.
- Staff will provide input on the candidates electronically, and the final interviews will be held on March 13.
- The search committee recommends a special meeting on March 18 to select the new director.
- The search committee will provide a video of the interviews for board members to view.
- Suggested questions for the candidates will be sent out, and board members are asked to complete evaluation forms by March 14.
- The search committee thanks all members and staff for their work on the search.
- Anjanae is thanked for her work as the interim director and for handling the budget.

Report of Blount County Public Library Director by Anjanae Brueland:

- The Board Meeting Packet, which includes the Library Director's Report, was distributed by email prior to the board meeting.



- Anjanae thanks the search committee and staff for their support during her tenure as interim director.
- She reviews the month of January, highlighting busy programs and events, specifically the World on the Move exhibition.
- The Youth Services Department hosted a successful Lego event, and the Seed Library in Reference opened for the season.
- Various programs, including adult classes and the Southern Appalachian series, saw high participation.
- Anjanae introduces two new staff members: Riley Renfrow, the new Education Services Assistant, and Ami Weaver, the part-time Food Services Associate.
- The IT department is working on developing new processes and procedures for the Automated Materials Handler (AMH).
- The library is well within its budget for the fiscal year, with a few adjustments for unemployment compensation.

Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis Gardner was not in attendance.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Vandy Kemp reported on the Friends.
- Vandy reports on the Friends' activities, including the need for volunteers for the upcoming book sale on March 6, 7, and 8.
- The Friends are working on a new strategic plan, with consultation from Bob Myers, and a mission statement to clarify roles.
- Currently, the Friends are working on branding and are in the middle of Board nominations.
- The Board is encouraged to attend the book sale and other events to support the library.

Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck:

- The Ocoee River Regional Library Report, and the READS FY 2023-24 Data Statistics were distributed by email before the meeting.
- Liz Schreck shared updates from the Regional Library.
- Blount County had the largest circulation in January.
- There are many training opportunities offered by the Region.
- Liz discussed different grant opportunities.
- There was an update to the Trustee certification modules.
 - Please let Liz know if you'd like to register/

Old Business:

- TCRS Update
 - Currently, there is no update.
 - Anjanae will send out an update via email once she receives one.

New Business:

- Public Notice Update
 - The Daily Times informed the Library that they are charging for Public Notices.



- The Library does not have this in the budget so we will no longer promote Library Board information in the Daily Times.
- BCPL Board notices and announcements will be posted on a bulletin board inside the Library between the Cafe and Public Restrooms.
- We will also publicize and promote on the BCPL website and social media.
- FY26 Budget Proposal
 - Anjanae presents the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026.
 - BCPL is not asking for an increase in operations.
 - BCPL is asking for 2 part-time positions:
 - Patron Services Associate
 - Food Services Associate
 - These additional positions would give support to the Cafe and return hours being utilized by Patron Services.

Dawn Reagan made a motion to approve the FY26 Budget Proposal. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried

- New Policy Schedule for Review
 - The board reviews the new policy review schedule, which spreads out policy reviews to ensure adequate time for review and approval.
 - Summer shared this link via email as well as distributed physical copies.

Funding Requests:

- Request - Library Closure requested on March 12th for Director Finalists Interviews.

Dawn Reagan made a motion to close the Library on March 12th. Shawn Graham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Request - Special Called Meeting to discuss Director Finalists: March 18th at 4:30 pm.

Becca Wolfenbarger made a motion to have a Special Called Meeting on March 18th at 4:30 pm. Robert Fogg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Additional Closing Comments:

- Greg Brakebill provides a list of upcoming meetings and events for the board and community.
- He thanked Community members for coming tonight.

Important Dates:

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 20 March 2025, 6:30 pm – BC Courthouse

Blount County Friends of the Library – 25 March 2025, 4:00 pm – BCPL

Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 17 April 2025, 8:00 am – BCPL

Maryville City Council - 1 April 2025, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg

Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 8 April 2025, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg

Next Library Board Meeting – 18 March 2025, 5:30 pm, Sharon Lawson Room



Motion to Adjourn:

Becca Wolfenbarger made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on, 18 March 2025 at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room, with a Special Called meeting at 4:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale