



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

Staff Attending: Anjanae Brueland - BCPL Interim Director, 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 March 2025 at 5:36pm.

Approval of Minutes: Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the 18 February 2025 Meeting minutes. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

- The board heard no comments from members of the public.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg Brakebill discusses the installation of the book sorter machine, nicknamed the "bookie monster," and mentions ongoing training.
- Greg attended the Foundation meeting and discussed their upcoming investment portfolio.
- Greg will be attending the library staff meetings tomorrow.
- Greg, along with Anjanae and Summer, met with Don Stallions to review additional capital requests for the FY26 budget proposal.

Report of Blount County Public Library Interim 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 Brueland thanks the search committee for their efforts and highlights the community's positive feedback for various library programs and events.
- The "World on the Move" program received high praise, with some events pulling in 150-130 participants.
 - Final Grant reporting is due in April.
- The community's appreciation for the library's weekend hours and the impact of the bookie monster naming competition are discussed.
- The AMH arrived Monday, installation was completed today and training begins tomorrow.
- The FY26 Budget Presentation has been submitted.
 - If you have questions or concerns please reach out to Anjanae so it can be as strong and succinct as possible.
 - Anjanae will be presenting on April 4th at 10:40am to the Blount County Budget Committee in the Commission Room. All Board members are encouraged to attend.



Financial Report, Anjanae Brueland

- Anjanae Brueland provides an update on BCPL financials, noting that revenues are above expectations and expenses are under budget, except for utilities.
- A request to increase the utility line item is presented, citing a 16.81% increase in costs.
 - We were appropriated \$170,000 we believe it'll be \$184,469.27.
- She will be asking the Budget Committee to allow the Library to apply the Fund Balance to increase this line. Finance will then come back with recommendations if we cannot use the Fund Balance.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve that if Finance makes any recommendations that this money come from a different area the Board will support it. Dawn Reagan seconded this motion. The motion carried.

- When meeting with Don Stallions we were told that our Chiller needs replacing. We are requesting that it be taken out of our library Fund Balance, which is ~ \$706,000. Fund balance is typically used for this kind of capital expense.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the chiller request with any recommendations from Finance or the Board. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- There will be a Budget meeting on 8 April 2025 at 5:00 pm
- The Commission Meeting Agenda Workshop will be at 6:30 pm the same evening.

Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis Gardner was not present at tonight's meeting.
- Greg Brakebill reports on the Foundation meeting, mentioning the need for fundraising efforts and the current fund balance of \$348,621.
- The Wealth Management Company is working with the Foundation.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Vandy Kemp provides an update on the Friends Group's activities, including their financial contributions and the acquisition of a thermal binding machine.
- The Spring Book Sale sold over 11,000 books and cleared almost \$18,000
- The Friends are working on a new Strategic Plan and updating their Mission
- Greg Brakebill, Trevis Gardner, and Vandy Kemp will be meeting in April to clarify missions and who does what.

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 prior to the meeting.
- Liz Schreck shared updates from the Regional Library.



- Liz Schrek discusses upcoming professional development opportunities, including workshops on data analytics and community engagement partnerships.
- The Top Grant application window is open, offering funding for digital literacy classes with no match required.
- The importance of updating board appointment lists and the statewide consortium's fine digital keeps going up are highlighted.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- The **Interlibrary Loan Policy** was discussed. The discussion was tabled.

Funding Requests:

- The Gift Committee recommends approving the Foundation to accept a \$25,000 donation.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to allow the Foundation to accept the \$25,000 donation. Shawn Graham seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- Friends Funding Request: AMH Carts
 - Several carts need to be retired and replaced.

Dawn made a motion to accept the Friends Funding Request for AMH Carts. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- There were no Foundation Funding Requests.

Additional Closing Comments:

- It was decided that before next month's Trustee meeting, the Board will discuss Trustee recommendations and appointments for those that are rolling off.
 - Shawn Graham - County
 - Stephanie Thompson - County
 - Lauren Emert- County
 - Greg Brakebill- Maryville City (renewing)



Important Dates:

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 17 April 2025, 6:30 pm – BC Courthouse

Blount County Friends of the Library – 22 April 2025, 4:00 pm – BCPL

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

Maryville City Council - 6 May 2025, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg

Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 13 May 2025, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg

Next Library Board Meeting – 20 May 2025, 5:30 pm – Sharon Lawson Room

Motion to Adjourn:

Shawn Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on 15 April 2025 at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale