



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

Staff Attending: Dustin Goforth - Library Director, Summer Dale

Visitors: Liz Schrek - Ocoee River Regional Library

Call to Order: Greg Brakebill called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 17 June 2025 at 5:30pm.

Approval of Minutes: Dexter Stewart made a motion to approve the 20 May 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes. Stephanie Thompson seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the 20 May 2025 Nominating Committee Meeting minutes. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- Greg Brakebill was nominated as Board Chair.
- Richard Fogg was nominated as Board Vice Chair.
- Summer Dale was nominated as Board Secretary.

Public Comment:

- The Board did not hear any comments from members of the public.

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg Brakebill reports on the successful ribbon-cutting events for the Bookie Monster and Tween Room.
- The County Commission will vote on Board appointments this Thursday, and the Maryville City Council will meet on 1 July 2025.
- The Friends of the Library's annual meeting will be held tomorrow, 11:30-1pm.
- The Foundation meets this Friday at 8am.
- Greg requested to have volunteers help with attending meetings. Please contact him if you would like to step in.
- Greg will meet with Vandy and Trevis on 27 June 2025 to discuss the library and stakeholders' connections, fundraising capabilities, and strategic direction.

Report of Blount County Public Library Director by Dustin Goforth:

- Dustin distributed a Progress and Direction Overview.
 - This update emphasized his goal of hearing, absorbing, and guiding. Dustin believes in servant leadership and coaching.
- Has been highlighting advocacy and purpose with staff and challenging them to think creatively about customer service.



- o Dustin shared data to illustrate this point. “There were a total of three news reports on the bookie monster and the tween ribbon cuttings...and there were 238 cookies eaten.”
- Dustin stated that Karen Vyskocil will be BCPL’s newest full-time Patron Services Specialist.
- He thanked the Board for facilitating network partnerships and meetings.
 - o A potential opportunity arose from one of these meetings regarding student volunteers and internships within the Library. Summer Dale is currently working on making this opportunity a reality.
- Dustin thanked Vandy Kemp for connecting him with Bob Myers to discuss strategic planning.
 - o Dustin believes that a facilitator would help BCPL adhere to a timeline and support overall project management.
 - o Dustin will be getting a sense of the cost, scope, and deliverables before moving forward.
- Dustin thanked the Board for approving the TCRS sick leave rollover last month. He has sent the Memo to Mr. Anderson for discussion on Thursday.
- Dustin explained a facilities situation that shortly disrupted operations this week. Emergency Response and General Services were called. No issues were found, and BCPL was given the all clear to return to regular operations.
- The Chiller is experiencing some issues. It is under assessment, and issues will be addressed soon.
- Dustin discussed some of May and June’s successful programming and events.
 - o He highlighted the PR department and a successful meme featuring Universal Classes, which the company requested be used globally.

Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis Gardner was not in attendance.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- The Friends are preparing for the annual meeting tomorrow.
- Currently, they have 820 active members.
- She gave an update on their new database management system, which is working well.
- The Friends' strategic plan, facilitated by Bob Myers, is set to be presented to their Board next week.
- The June book sale broke \$20,000!
- Vandy reminded the Board that on August 9th, there will be a Teachers’ Appreciation Book Sale.

Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck:

- The Ocoee River Regional Library Report and the READS FY 2024-25 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Liz Schreck shared updates from the Regional Library.
- She discussed summer reading programs, TSLA manuals, promotional materials, and Board memberships.
- She encouraged all Board members to complete the Trustee Certification program by June 30th.



- She will send signed copies of the Public Library Service Agreement.
- Staff Continuing Education Training Trackers are due by June 30th.
- Title VI training is due soon.
- The Standards Survey is due July 15th.
 - Liz reminded the Board that the Standards are not requirements but goals.

Old Business:

- The **Library Programming policy** was discussed.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the Programming policy. Shawn Graham seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

New Business:

- The **Conflict of Interest Policy** was presented.
 - Minor edits were suggested.
 - No action was taken.
- **Requests:**
 - **A to Z Databases Multi-Year Agreement (option 2).**
 - The agreement was discussed.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the A to Z Database Multi-Year Agreement. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- **Library Closure for Staff Development Day on 21 November 2025.**
 - The closure was discussed.

Stephanie Thompson made a motion to approve the Library's closure on 21 November 2025 for Staff Development Day. Robert White seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- **Open the Library from 6-8pm on 27 September for the Silent Disco Event.**
 - The event was discussed.

Shawn Graham made a motion to keep the library open after hours from 6-8pm on 21 November 2025. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- **Open the Library from 5:30-7pm on 25 October 2025 for the Tremont Writers' Program.**
 - The program was discussed.

Dawn Reagan makes a motion to keep the library open after hours from 5:30-7pm on 25 October 2025 for the Tremont Writers' program. Stephanie Thompson seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**



Additional Closing Comments:

- There will be a Commission meeting on Thursday to discuss unfinished business.
- Dawn Reagan volunteered to attend the Friends of the Library meeting on 24 June 2025.
- Greg will attend the Foundation meeting on 20 June 2025.
- Greg will attend the Maryville City Council meeting on 1 July 2025.
- Dexter Stewart and Dustin will be attending the Alcoa Board of Commissioners meeting on Tuesday.
- There will be no Board of Trustees meeting in July. The next meeting will be held on 19 August 2025.
- Reminder to everyone: Greg will be giving a musical lecture performance on the music of John Dowland on 24 July 2025.
- The Board of Trustees thanked Stephanie Thompson for her service on the Board throughout the years. It was agreed that the Library is better because of her efforts.
 - Stephanie, in turn, expressed her appreciation for the Trustees and BCPL staff.

Important Dates:

Other Library Meetings

Blount County Commission Meeting – 21 August 2025, 6:00 pm – BC Courthouse

Blount County Friends of the Library – 26 August 2025, 4:00 pm – BCPL

Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 19 September 2025, 8:00 am – BCPL

Maryville City Council - 2 September 2025, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg

Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 9 September 2025, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg

Next Library Board Meeting – 16 September 2025, 5:30 pm, Sharon Lawson Room

Motion to Adjourn:

Shawn Graham made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion.

The motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on February 18th at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale