



Trustees Attending: Greg Brakebill, Shawn Graham, Becca Wolfenbarger, Robert White, Dawn Reagan, Dexter Stewart, Kyle Anderson, Kathleen Christy, Richard Fogg

Staff Attending: Dustin Goforth - Library Director, Anjanae Brueland, Summer Dale

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

Call to Order: Greg Brakebill called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 19 August 2025 at 5:30pm.

Approval of Minutes: Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the 17 June 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting minutes with corrections. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Public Comment:

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

Report of Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg shared that the Strategic Planning group met.
- There will be a Trustee Workshop in Crossville, TN, on September 25th.
- Greg shared that Ed Harmon donated \$200,000 to the Library Foundation.

Report of Blount County Public Library Director by Dustin Goforth:

- Dustin distributed his Workshop Progress Report prior to the meeting, detailing that he has taken an active and advisory role in the library, worked in different departments, hosted “get-to-know-you” booths for the public, and hired four new employees, as well as expanded our student worker program.
- Dustin expressed the Library’s shared excitement at Summer Reading being done!
 - In June and July, the library circulated 45,000 items.
 - Children’s recorded a high of 72 children at one storytime.
 - Adult storytime participation was up 17% from last year.
- The library and IT have partnered with East TN Development District to administer a \$100,000 grant, designed to train low and middle-income patrons in computer literacy.
 - Patrons will be given a Chromebook for class, and once they complete 15 hours of training, they will be able to keep that Chromebook permanently. They will also have one year of free IT support.
- Facilities completed the HVAC system.
 - Temperatures have been a bit more regulated.
- There was a new leak, but no materials were lost.
- Dustin received an email from East TN Makers Market, Deborah Dee, regarding a request for the inclusion of permanent decorative iron cattails in the library gardens.
 - This would be completely free and would use local artists for the creation of this art.



- o There was discussion on this, and Dustin will be following up with more information.

Financial Report, Anjanae Brueland:

- There was discussion on the Financial Report.

Report of Foundation Board, Trevis Gardner:

- Trevis Gardner was not in attendance.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Ann Nixon, Vice President of the Friends, updated the Board.
- The Friends implemented a new strategic plan.
- The private sale for Teachers was well received.
- Congratulations to Dee Barham for the grant.
- The next book sale will be on September 4th-6th.

Report of Ocoee River Regional Library, Liz Schreck:

- The Ocoee River Regional Library Report and the READS FY 2025-26 Data Statistics were distributed by email prior to the meeting.
- Liz Schreck shared updates from the Regional Library.
- The Trustee Workshop will be on September 25th.
- The Annual Public Library Survey is open through the month of September.
- Liz supplied the FY26 annual Maintenance of Effort document for the funding bodies to sign.
- Congratulations to Robert White for completing his Trustee Certification.

Old Business:

- The **Conflict of Interest Policy** was discussed.
 - o Richard discussed wanting to standardize the library policy format.

Greg Brakebill made a motion to approve the Conflict of Interest policy. Robert White seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

New Business:

- The **Code of Ethics Policy** was presented.
 - o Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- The **Rules of Conduct Policy** was presented.
 - o Discussed, including language that prohibits alcohol and any intoxicating substance on the premises.
 - o Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- The **Circulation of Library Materials Policy** was presented.



- Discussed increasing circulation limits.
- It was discussed that, as part of the public safety and public health law, when a patron returns an item infested with vermin, they must provide a receipt detailing the treatment/extermination of their residence before checking out additional items. This is to ensure the health of the public.

- **Requests:**

- The **Building Closure Schedule for 2026** was presented.
 - There was discussion on whether staff would rather have December 23rd-25th off or December 25th-27th off.
 - Dustin will present this option to staff and get their feedback.
 - Discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- **Friends Funding Request: Strategic Directions Timeline and Facilitator**
 - Dustin presented the request to employ a Strategic Directions Facilitator, Maelea Galyon.
 - The request is to allow the Friends to fund four sessions at \$500 per session.
 - The completion date should be no later than February 2026.

Dawn Reagan made a motion to approve the FFR for the Strategic Directions Timeline and Facilitator. Richard Fogg seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- **Request to open the Library after hours for a Teen prom/homecoming program on November 14th.**
 - There was discussion on this request.

Dawn Reagan made a motion to approve the request to open the Library after hours for the Teen prom/homecoming event on November 14th. Kathleen Christy seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

- **Request to open the Library on October 16th from 8pm-9pm for the long Table event.**
 - A few staff would be present to escort Long Table participants to the restrooms.

Shawn Graham made a motion to approve the Library opening after hours on October 16th from 8-9pm. Dawn Reagan seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

Additional Closing Comments:

- The Foundation will meet this Friday.
- Shawn informed the Board that he will not be in attendance for the October meeting.



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:

Dawn Reagan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Shawn Graham seconded the motion. **The motion carried.**

The next Library Board meeting will be held on September 16th at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale