



Trustees Attending: Greg Brakebill - Board Chair, Richard Fogg - Board Vice Chair, Shawn Graham, Dexter Stewart, Robert White, Dawn Reagan, Becca Wolfenbarger, Kathleen Christy

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

Visitors: Vandy Kemp - Friends of the Blount County Public Library, Robert McClelland - Foundation for the Blount County Public Library, Liz Schreck- Ocoee River Regional Library

Call to Order: Greg Brakebill called the Blount County Public Library Board to order on 10 February 2026 at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the 13 January 2025 Ad Hoc Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Shawn Graham made a motion to approve the 13 January 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes. Richard Fogg seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Public Comment:

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

Report of the Board of Trustees Chair by Greg Brakebill:

- Greg did not have anything to report.

Report of the Blount County Public Library Director by Dustin:

- Dustin shared that the Library participated in national Freedom Day at the Courthouse on 8 February 2026.
- The Elevator has been fixed in time for the next Friends book sale.
- The Library had many successful programs during the month of February.
- Dustin encourages the Board to check out the Vintage Valentines display by Debbit Stratemeyer.
- Dustin also shared a letter from an anonymous child expressing his gratitude to the Library and staff as well as requesting additional books in the Children's collection.
- The Bookmark Cafe is rolling out a rebranded bi-monthly special. This promotion will bundle a drink and food item at a discounted cost.
- He expressed his excitement at having Board member Kathleen Christy back after an extended absence.

Financial Report, Anjanae Brueland:

- Anjanae gave a Public Relations update and thanked the Friends and Board for their support in the creation of a Harper mascot plushie.
 - Hopefully she will be ready to share soon.
- The PR Coordinator, Sarah Smith, stepped away from her position on 28 January 2026.
 - Zoe Ballew has been promoted to fill this role.
 - We are in the process of hiring a new Online Services Coordinator.
 - All open positions can be found on the BCPL website under the employment opportunities link.



- Anjanae thanked Board member Robert White for the QR code suggestion regarding how the Bookie Monster operates. This has been included in the PR emailed welcome campaign.
- Anjanae shared other exciting accomplishments from the PR department, such as Transparent Language adding another BCPL meme to their official marketing campaign, and that TikTok is still going strong.
- Anjanae shared the Financial Report.
 - Pacing has been going very well throughout the year.
 - Some of the percentages in Operations may look a little skewed due to General Liability and Workers' Comp both being paid in full last month.
 - Additionally, only half of the Payroll had been processed when this report came out so it looks a little bit lower than usual.

Report of Foundation Board, Robert McClelland:

- Robert shared that the Foundation will be looking at their Mission and Purpose to determine if they meet their needs and priorities at this time.
- They will also be setting their fundraising donor engagement advocacy and program support priorities.
- The Foundation will also be looking at what success looks like for the Foundation this year.
- Alexa Johns is the new Foundation President, taking over from Trevis Gardner.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- The Friends have a book sale coming up on March 5th, 6th, and 7th.
 - The 5th is for members only
- The Friends always need volunteers, specifically as elevator operators.
 - If you would like to volunteer for an hour please let Vandy know.
- Laurie Smalley, a long time Friends volunteer and Board member has passed away. The Friends are looking at ways to honor her memory and service.

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 discussed past and upcoming training opportunities hosted by the Region.
- She shared that the LSTA deadline is April 30th.
- There have been updates to how Tennessee Electronic Library (TEL) authenticates TN residents.
 - TEL will no longer rely on geolocation.
 - Anyone inside the Library using TEL will be automatically authenticated and at-home users will just need their Library card.
- Liz reminded the Board that the Trustee Certification program is always available.
- Liz highlighted that "National Take Your Child to the Library Day" was on 7 February 2026.

Old Business:

- The **Gift policy** was discussed.

Dexter Stewart made a motion to approve the Gift policy for the Board of Trustees. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- The **FY27 Budget Proposal** was discussed.



- Dustin thanked Anjanae and staff for their assistance.
- The Salary and Benefits are completed by County Finance and HR.
- The deadline to input Operating costs into Munis is February 17th.
- Dustin suggests increasing the Office Supplies line item by \$2,000 so that Reference/Adult Services can purchase new chairs.
 - In order to counterbalance this request, Dustin has suggested reducing Capital Funds by \$2,000 to offset the cost.
 - Kathleen Christy expressed her agreement and gratitude for the needed chairs.
- Included in the proposal is Expenditures by Capital Projects.
 - The 4 Year Capital plan was developed by staff to outline future goals.
 - The mindset for this plan is to make good use of Taxpayer dollars, make it adaptable to future needs, and for it not to interfere with any long term goals.
- Travis Brooks, the new County Project Manager, has signed off on the estimates Dustin presented.
- Currently there is still a large amount of Capital Funds in the current budget and Travis Brooks shared that the HVAC duct system may be able to be cleaned this fiscal year.
 - This may have been approved by the Board 2-3 years ago.
- The estimate of future years is for the development of BCPL spaces.
 - Dustin shared that sound mitigation in the Study Rooms is at the top of the list with the goal of having enclosed study spaces in the next 2-3 years.
- Richard Fogg discussed inflation and gave kudos to Dustin for tying the Capital Budget to the Strategic Plan.
- Dustin explained that he would like the Bookmark Cafe revenue increases to match expenditures.
 - This increase is mainly based on consumption.
- The FY27 Budget Proposal presentation will be on March 26th or 27th.

Kathleen Christy made a motion to accept the FY27 Budget Proposal for approval by Blount County Commission. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

- The **Local History and Genealogy Collection Development and Weeding Materials policy** was presented and discussed.
 - Clarity was given regarding donations to the Library, pointing donors and staff to the Gift Policy.
 - The suggested changes align with the County Surplus rules.
 - Among other things, this policy outlines donation naming requirements, copyright acknowledgement, and liability.
 - The language within the policy now requests rather than requires the crediting of the Library when any Library materials are used in a publication.
 - Dustin expressed that as always he would be happy to meet with any Board Member who has questions or would like to discuss this policy further.
 - Dustin will be on vacation February 18th-March 3rd.
 - No action was taken.
- The **Internet Safety policy** was discussed.
 - No action was taken.

Funding Requests:

- FOL Funding Request - Time Capsule



- Staff member, Polly Taylor, came up with this idea for both summer reading's theme of "Unearth a Story" and the Semiquincentennial.
- We will hold various programs to fill the time capsule, which will be opened in 25 years or in the year 2051.
- We would like this to become a living timecapsule that once opened in 25 years will be resealed and then reopened in 50 years.
- This request is for \$1,000 which includes the physical time capsule, a plaque, engraving, and a stand to hold it so that it can be viewed and become a living history piece.

Dawn Reagan made a motion to approve the Friends Funding request for the Time Capsule. Kathleen Christy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- FOL Funding Request - Advertisement in the Senior Services Directory
 - This request is from staff member, Melinda Rust.
 - Every three years Senior Services creates a directory which is extremely popular and well loved within the community.
 - The request is for \$1,680 for this advertisement and 500 free copies of the directory.

Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the Friends Funding Request for the Advertisement in the Senior Services Directory. Kathleen Christy seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Important Dates:

- Other Library Meetings
 - Blount County Commission Meeting – 16 April 2026, 6:00 pm – BC Courthouse
 - Blount County Friends of the Library – 24 March 2026, 4:00 pm – BCPL
 - Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 20 March 2026, 8:00 am – BCPL
 - Maryville City Council - 7 April 2026, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg
 - Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 14 April 2026, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg
- Next Library Board Meeting – 21 April 2026, 5:30 pm, Sharon Lawson Room

Motion to Adjourn:

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

The next Library Board meeting will be held on 17 March 2026 at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale