



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

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 5:33 pm.

Approval of Minutes: Becca Wolfenbarger made a motion to approve the 10 February 2026 Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes with corrections. 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 shared that it's heart-warming to see the Library consistently so full of patrons.
- Greg also shared that he will not be available on 21 April 2026.
 - Vice Chair Richard Fogg will chair the meeting in Greg's absence.

Report of the Blount County Public Library Director by Dustin:

- Dustin shared BCPL program and event updates.
 - Youth Services had a successful Winter Festival.
 - Reference's Audio Book Walking Club returned.
 - The Seed Library re-opened on February 19th.
 - By the end of February, we had 262 check-outs.
 - The Seed Swap will be this Saturday from 9 am-12 pm.
 - The Bookmark Café's sales increased by 23% in February.
 - The increases were implemented on March 1st, and so far, there have been no complaints.
 - BCPL has had a lot of positive PR.
 - Anna Uptain, one of our Youth Services Librarians, was mentioned specifically for her kindness, joy, and musical talent.
- Dustin shared that there have been adjustments to the staff.
 - Zoe Ballew, Penny Stewart, Beth Coppenger, and Brandy Raddenbach have all been promoted from within.
 - We are working on filling those vacant positions.
- The Daily Times has offered the Library its bound collection from 1970 to last month.
 - Dustin is collaborating with Sara Corso, the Reference Manager, on how and when to take that collection over.
- The Friends received a donation of \$25,000.
- BCPL has been given a voting spot on the Blount 250 Committee.
 - Dustin is actively involved and regularly attends the meetings.
- Dustin has coordinated with Greg McClain to host a Maryville City Council Workshop at the Library this Friday at 8 am.



- The Library will be transitioning from Google to Microsoft.
 - Staff emails will change from .org to .gov
- FY2027 Budget Update
 - Dustin was made aware that the Capital Line fund is being reserved by the County to cover expenses for Maintenance, IT, and General Services, etc.
 - He has been instructed to return the \$263,332 he had moved to offset other costs.
 - This will mean a slight increase of \$19,306, to what he is requesting. Which is a 1-2% increase overall, not including salaries.

Financial Report, Anjanae Brueland:

- Anjanae shared that we are pacing well.
- Next month, the Board will see a jump in the charts. This is expected because the funds held in the Capital line will be withdrawn.
 - Richard Fogg requested clarification on this.
 - Anjanae explained that these funds will always be originally appropriated to BCPL from the County; otherwise, we wouldn't make MOE. However, it is considered earmarked for expenses used in the running and maintenance of the building.
 - Dustin is in discussions with Finance to request taking this amount out of our budget closer to the beginning of the year, rather than it just sitting in the budget.
 - This would especially help new Board Members, so there is no confusion.
- Anjanae reiterated that the Bookmark Café is doing very well, revenue-wise.

Report of Foundation Board, Robert McClelland:

- Robert gave an update on the Foundation.
- He shared that the Foundation has two committees this year.
 - The Planning Committee focuses on Strategic Planning and the long-term sustainability of the Foundation, as well as supporting relationships with donors.
 - The Communications Committee ensures that the message that goes out to the community is accurate and clear and aligns with their mission. They also work on increasing the awareness of what the Foundation does.
 - They are currently working on a Newsletter.
 - The Foundation is working on crafting a Mission Statement and possibly a Vision Statement as well.

Report of Friends of the Library, Vandy Kemp:

- Vandy has been inspired by the Friends generosity.
- She shared that as the Friends have been going through their strategic planning and visioning process, two things that kept being brought up were that the Friends don't want BCPL to want for anything and that they want to continue to bless the community with opportunities for lifelong learning for all ages.
- Last weekend's Quarterly Booksale's revenue was \$19,700.
- The December Sale and March Sale both saw over 25% increases from last year due to operational changes.
- The Operations team runs the book sales like a retail business, and they have a paid communications person, Kari Masson.
- The Friends are in a good position to continue to generously support the library and community.
- Anjanae shared that social media posts about how well-loved the Blount County Friends of the Library are.
- Ann Nixon has consented to be nominated to be FOL President.



- The donor of the \$25,000 has shared her love of history, and the Friends are exploring “Restrictive Funds” so that the donation is only used on items and in ways that focus on history.
 - Vandy also shared that sometimes people are more generous in their donations if they know where their funds are going, such as to a specific thing.

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.
- Liz also shared some upcoming deadlines and important dates.
 - The Top Grant deadline is the end of this month.
 - The spending for the LSTA Tech Grant is coming up at the end of April.
 - The TNLA Conference will be in Knoxville in April.
- Liz reminds the Board of the available and encouraged Trustee Certification program.
- Liz shared that the Blount County digital circulation for last month was 22,475.
- Kathleen Christy completed the Trustee Certification program and received a certificate.

Old Business:

- The **Local History and Genealogy Collection Development and Weeding Materials policy** was presented and discussed.
 - Dustin thanked Shawn Graham and Kathleen Christy for their recommendations.
 - Additionally, minor language changes were discussed.

Richard Fogg made a motion to approve the Local History and Genealogy Collection Development and Weeding Materials policy with the minor language change. Dexter Stewart seconded the motion. The motion carried.

- The **Internet Safety policy** was discussed.

Shawn Graham made a motion to approve the Internet Safety policy. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

New Business:

- The **Sex Offender Policy** was presented and discussed.
 - The Board discussed the definitions and rules that apply to offenses against children versus offenses against anyone.
 - Shawn volunteered to look at this policy in more depth before next month’s meeting and report his findings.
 - Dustin shared that the Library recommended changing the language from “TN Registry” to “Any State Registry”.
 - The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- The **Public Meeting Room Policy** was presented and discussed.
 - Richard recommended consolidating some of the paragraphs for ease of viewing and to eliminate redundancies. The suggested subjects needing consolidation are:



- Fees
- Clean Up
- The discussion was tabled until the next meeting.
- **Nominating Committee Meeting**
 - Greg shared that select Board members will need to meet before the 19 May 2026 Board of Trustees meeting at 4:30 pm.
 - The trustees whose attendance is requested include:
 - Greg Brakebill
 - Richard Fogg
 - Dexter Stewart
 - Becca Wolfenbarger

Funding Requests:

- There were no funding requests.

Closing Comments:

- Anjanae will be joining Dustin for the City of Maryville meeting.
- Summer will join Greg in Dustin's stead for the Foundation meeting.
- The next Trustee meeting will be on 21 April 2026. Greg will be unavailable, but Richard will chair this meeting.

Important Dates:

- Other Library Meetings
 - Blount County Commission Meeting – 21 May 2026, 6:00 pm – BC Courthouse
 - Blount County Friends of the Library – 28 April 2026, 4:00 pm – BCPL
 - Foundation for the Blount County Public Library – 15 May 2026, 8:00 am – BCPL
 - Maryville City Council - 5 May 2026, 7:00 pm – Maryville Municipal Bldg
 - Alcoa Board of Commissioners - 12 May 2026, 7:00 pm – Alcoa Municipal Bldg
- Next Library Board Meeting – 21 April 2026, 5:30 pm, Sharon Lawson Room

Motion to Adjourn:

Dexter Stewart made a motion to adjourn. Becca Wolfenbarger seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The next Library Board meeting will be held on 21 April 2026 at 5:30 pm, in the Sharon Lawson Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Summer Dale