

Shelbyville Bedford County Public Library Board September 24th, 2024

Board Members present: Ralph McBride, Mary Pitner, Michelle Hasty, Jennifer Templeton Mark McGee, Dr. Gerald Martin, and John Boutwell. Also present: Margaret Petty – Library Director and Cindy Matthews – Assistant Director. Not present: Shay Maupin, Bonne Belden, Brent Pewitt and Marilyn Ewing.

Called to Order

Ralph McBride introduced a new member, Michelle Hasty, and called the meeting to order at 1:01pm with a quorum of seven (7) members.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

No report.

Approval of Minutes

John Boutwell made the motion to approve July's minutes, and Dr. Gerald Martin seconded. All approved.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Pitner made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Jennifer Templeton seconded the motion. All approved.

Regional Libraries' Report

Cindy Matthews gave a reminder that the Public Library Survey is open until September 30th. All Tech Grant requests were funded in full this year – that's great! She closed her report by announcing the Summer Reading Daylong Conference on the 8th and several opportunities for upcoming training.

Ralph McBride asked if any board members were able to attend the Trustee Workshop. Mark McGee was able to represent the SBCPL. He shared his thoughts on the workshop saying it was more practical this year and the lunch was great!

Old Business

Margaret Petty said the new library hours, especially Sunday's, have been well attended. Several parents have shown gratitude as it gives them flexibility in getting to the library. She went on to say that Caleb Harris observed patrons using the study rooms longer than usual. It's a matter of getting the new hours out to the public.

New Business

A proposal for a new layout has been submitted. Petty has received concerns from elderly patrons regarding the book aisles being narrow and the lighting not being bright enough. Over the next 6-8 months, she would like to “flip” the library layout. Margaret feels the history room could be utilized more by the younger readers and the contents in the history room be moved to the children’s area. She feels a new layout would give the library more room for storage and this would be a great way to celebrate 10 years in the new building!

Margaret asked for a board vote as it is a big undertaking. With some concern, she shared each room had been paid by certain families. There are plaques to commemorate the donation that can be moved to the new areas, or they can have a specific area designated for the plaques. Mary Pitner suggested letters going out to those families, giving a heads-up that there will be some rearranging and thanking them again for their donations.

John Boutwell made the motion to approve the plans for a new layout. Dr. Gerald Martin seconded. It was unanimously approved by all.

With a growing number of complaints from patrons regarding people sitting near the doors and smoking, Margaret Petty asked Cindy Matthews if there were any regulations on how close someone could smoke near the building. Dr. Gerald Martin raised the question of what the county rules were. Matthews agreed that we should stay consistent with those to a minimum.

There has been a group of 3-4 people (including their dogs) who hang out in front of the library or at the charging table from open to close. The only time they come into the library is to use the bathroom. At times, they get loud yelling profanity and causing a disturbance. Margaret said they have called the police before, and before they get here, the party disperses and usually stay away for a few days. A staff member asked if a sign could be placed near the area that reads, “No Loitering”. Ralph McBride brought up the point that the library is a public establishment and putting up signage such as that can put us in a gray area as far as what is legal and not. Dr. Gerald Martin suggested that if a “No Smoking” sign goes up, it could help the issue of loitering.

Friends of the Library

The Annual Luncheon will take place next week on October 1st. Mary Pitner suggested that with there being 8 seats at a table, board members who plan to come donate \$20 for a seat. She said in the past, the dedicated Trustee table has been empty (not a good look!). She encouraged board members to attend and support the luncheon.

Personnel Committee

Hayley Clanton received an offer and accepted it at the Williamson County Public Library. Clanton's position (Library/Bookmobile Tech) was offered to Megan Kipker, who has been working at the library part time for a while. Margaret has resumes that she plans to go through to hire for Megan's now open part time position.

Community Relations

Different topics related to the library have been published. Mark McGee announced a picture of him and Kate Huddleston at the Workshop should be in the upcoming paper.

Property Committee

No report.

Librarian's Report

The book sale brought in an estimate of \$905 dollars.

Instead of giving out candy this year for Halloween, the staff opted for small gift bags the trick or treaters can color and reuse. They plan to fill them with crayons, temporary tattoos and other knick knacks from past programs. Petty shared that they plan to have a Halloween party on October 25th from 1PM-3PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:56pm.

Shay Maupin | Treasurer/Secretary