

Shelbyville Bedford County Public Library Board May 27th, 2025

Board Members present: Ralph McBride, Dr. Gerald Martin, Shay Maupin, Michelle Hasty, John Boutwell, Jennifer Templeton, Brent Pewitt, Betsy Noel, and Bonne Belden. Also present: Margaret Petty – Library Director, Kate Huddleston – Regional Director. Not present: Mark McGee and Mary Pitner.

Called to Order

Ralph McBride called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with a quorum of nine (9) members.

Opportunity for the Public to Address the Board

Ginger Bobo Shofner introduced herself and announced that she would be representing the City of Shelbyville at today's meeting. She asked if the board would consider giving grace with the time limit. Shofner also shared that she would prefer to present during 'New Business'.

Approval of Minutes

All approved.

Treasurer's Report

All approved.

Regional Libraries' Report

Kate Huddleston started out by reminding the board that the Library Service Agreement is due June 20. A new state law was signed April 5th regarding appointed boards and related actions. The 2026 Tech Grant is only accessible online and is due July 7, 2025.

Old Business

Jeff Sweeney brought in Mark Hawley and Brandon Staggs from KSA to present patio mockup drawings to the board. There were two different concepts presented. Each had designs that were in line with what SBCPL is looking for – practicality, library events and low maintenance.

Concept A consisted of a slanted roof and stone that would match the library building. Patrons would be able to charge their phones and laptops due to solar panels being installed. Concept B was more of a traditional design. The gable roof would consist of a metal screen that displays a design of our choice.

Both patios had areas for patrons to lounge. Not pictured in the designs were cover ups for the walkway. Keeping out stragglers, the area will be fenced. Each design would be around 36x36 or 40x40.

KSA and Sweeney will need a decision soon to meet the deadline in October 2026. It will take 45 days to get started on groundwork once the choice is made.

New Business

Board Chairman, Ralph McBride, received an email (and letter) from City Attorney, Ginger Shofner last week, regarding the SBCPL make a land donation. The properties that are being referred to are a portion of parcel 001.03, west of S. Brittain Street and parcel 008.00, off S. Jefferson Street. They are asking for the donation to build the new Public Safety Headquarters that would house both the Police and Fire Departments.

She asked that a choice be made at today's meeting so that the city can decide on the next steps at their next meeting. Ralph McBride expressed strong concerns that giving away valuable property would violate the fiduciary duty owed by the Board members to the library. Making this donation would also be detrimental to the success and future of SBCPL.

Shofner distributed additional documents including maps of the properties being requested.

In 2023, the city had a strategic planning session and decided they wanted to start planning for a future headquarters. Due to the current buildings being cramped, deteriorating and the flume running through the properties, it was decided it is best that the departments relocate.

At one point when several concerns were being discussed, Bonne Belden raised the question of what happens to the old buildings. Scott Collins, City Manager, advised that they would be torn down and the sites would become a green space.

After further discussion, Shofner disclosed that the private owners – adjacent and south to parcel 001.03 – have given verbal agreements and would be paid for their land.

Jan Phillips, Lisa Smith, Matt Doak, Scott Collins (all with the City of Shelbyville), Shawn Winberry, Chris Holmes and Ginger French (all with TLM Associates) were present with Ginger Shofner in support of the land donation.

McBride encouraged the board to vote at next month's meeting after we've had time to think about the presentation. He also advised that we could have someone come out and do an appraisal of the parcels.

Bonne Belden made a motion for us to discuss at June's meeting. Jennifer Templeton seconded.

Mary Pitner is no longer a board member as she has moved out of Bedford County, TN. Margaret Petty has reached out to potential members for her replacement.

Friends of the Library

Petty announced preparation is underway for this year's luncheon. So far, everything is going well!

Personnel Committee

No report.

Community Relations

Brent Pewitt excitedly announced that the Optimist Club donated \$2,500 to the library for summer reading! A photo opp has been planned for next month's meeting.

Property Committee

No report.

Librarian's Report

The 10th Anniversary/Groundbreaking Event has been scheduled for June 28th at 10 AM. There will be activities for all ages throughout the day! At the end of the day, there will be a "Foam Party" for everyone.

Board members should try and be there no later than 10:30AM for the groundbreaking ceremony.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:20PM.

Shay Maupin | Treasurer/Secretary