

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
WASHINGTON COUNTY FREE LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES
HELD AT THE FLETCHER BRANCH
JULY 20, 2022

Present: Stephen Schutte, President
Laurie Bender
Judith Chambers
Zachery Kieffer
Al Martin
Kathy Oliver

Board Absent: Aaron Peterancez
Kristine McGee
Kimberly Halsey

Staff Present: Jenny Bakos
Kathleen O'Connell
Elizabeth Hulett
Jennifer Keysor
Sara McCall

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 PM by President Stephen Schutte in room 334 at the Fletcher branch.

Minutes

The minutes of the May 25, 2022, meeting of the Board were reviewed. Ms. Bender motioned to approve the minutes as stated and Ms. Oliver seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Correspondence

Ms. Bakos shared correspondence of appreciation for pie day pies and retirement gifts from retired staff members.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. Bakos advised we received anticipated funding from the County Commissioners, State of Maryland and City of Hagerstown.

Ms. Bakos provided an update on special projects. Projects include a website usability study, salary/compensation study, Williamsport facility study, Facility condition assessment and period product partnership with Meritus.

The board discussed the period product partnership, which would make period products available for those in need. Dispensers would be installed at all branches throughout the county. Period products are not covered under other financial assistance programs. Meritus is funding the program for WCFL.

Director of Public Services Report

Ms. O'Connell stated her report is inclusive and we are working towards opening on Sundays starting in September. The Sunday reopening have been delayed due to insufficient staffing.

Director of WMRL

Ms. Hulett's report was inclusive of WMRL's activities.

New Business

Board Education

Ms. Bakos presented Module 1: Free Speech and the First Amendment in the Library. Ms. Bakos researched the topic extensively as the issue is growing within Libraries. Many libraries have experienced private citizens conducting "First Amendment Audits." Citizen First Amendment Audits are persons coming into a space, video recording the event/conversation under the statement of a Citizen Journalism or a First Amendment audit. Many published videos reflect the citizen auditors deploying antagonistic/bullying tactics to escalate the situation for negative responses.

Persons may disagree with materials or programs outside personal values, promoting censorship of materials. WCFL does have a material selection policy which states "Materials are evaluated as a whole, and not based on a particular section or sections. A work will not be excluded from the library's collection because it presents an honest aspect of life or because of frankness of expression."

Ms. Bakos presented WCFL's internet use policy and Maryland Law regarding content availability to minors.

Financial Report

Mr. Martin presented WCFL's financials as of June 30, 2022 and WMRL's May 31, 2022 financials. Ms. Bender moved to approve the financial report as presented for audit. Ms. Oliver seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Presentation

Ms. Bakos presented the 2023 fiscal year budget amended to reflect changes from the January 2022 presentation. Mr. Martin moved to approve the budget as presented, Ms. Bender seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Policy Review

Ms. Oliver and Ms. Bakos presented the following policies for review by the Board. Policies reflect changes to more inclusive verbiage.

Policies submitted for approval were:

- Patron Use of Space
- Photography and Filming

The Policy committee request removal of the Government Reference Services Policy.

Ms. Oliver moved to accept the policies as presented and removal of the Government Reference Services Policy. Ms. Chambers seconded the motion with unanimous approval.

Old Business

The November Board meeting will be held at a branch in the county. Staff will coordinate the available location.

Board Comments

Board members appreciate the cohesiveness of staff and the trustees. They appreciate the advances in library programming, taking away some preconceived notions of what a library is.

Upcoming Library Events

Debbie MaComber on July 31, 2022

FanCon is August 6, 2022

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny L. Bakos

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Executive Director