

**BLACKWATER REGIONAL LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2023**

Present

Ora Briggs – Sussex County
Sylvia Claggett – Isle of Wight County
Deborah Dawson – Surry County
Terri Hedgepeth – City of Franklin
Connie Henderson – Isle of Wight County
Pam Lease – City of Franklin
Jessica Moore – Sussex County
Pam Vaughan – Isle of Wight County
Bill Worsham – Southampton County
Ben Neal – Library Director
Bonnie Lauver – Assistant Library Director
Debbie Carter – Budget & Finance Manager

Remote (via Zoom)

Michelle Manfred – Isle of Wight County

Absent

MeChelle Blunt – Southampton County
Jennifer Cuthbertson – Southampton County
Cathy Funk – Isle of Wight County
William Scott – City of Franklin
Denise Tynes – Isle of Wight County

Chair, Connie Henderson called the meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Franklin Branch.

Consideration of Remote Meeting Participation Requests

Trustee Manfred requested to attend this meeting remotely. Mr. Neal read the Motion to Permit Board Member to Participate Remotely, filled in the required information, and conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Briggs, Claggett, Dawson, Hedgepeth, Lease, Moore, Vaughan, Worsham, Henderson

Nays: none

Agenda

Ms. Moore moved, and Mr. Worsham seconded that the agenda be approved as amended. Ms. Lauver conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Briggs, Claggett, Dawson, Hedgepeth, Lease, Manfred, Moore, Vaughan, Worsham, Henderson

Nays: none

Minutes

Ms. Briggs moved, and Ms. Dawson seconded the minutes be approved as presented. Ms. Lauver conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Briggs, Claggett, Dawson, Hedgepeth, Lease, Manfred, Moore, Vaughan, Worsham, Henderson

Nays: none

Public Comment

None

Correspondence

None

Library Director's Report

Central/System-wide Updates

There is a Library Page vacancy in Smithfield; interviews are scheduled at the end of February.

Winter Reading Program launched, easy book circulation is up 33% from this time last year.

BRL is a partner in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library launch in Isle of Wight County (kick-off event 2/18, Smithfield Center).

BRL staff completed 15 trainings in January.

Over 13,000 visits to library locations in January.

Committee Reports

Budget & Finance – Mr. Worsham – Mr. Neal's presentation to Franklin City Council was very informative. Thank you to Trustee Lease for being present for the meeting. Ms. Lease – Branch Manager Sproul also did a great job. Ms. Henderson – If Trustees are unable to attend meetings, please speak to representatives. Ms. Moore – all localities offer Zoom meetings, and know when Trustees are online.

Personnel & Policy – Ms. Vaughan – no report

Accounts Payable

Mr. Worsham moved, and Ms. Hedgepeth seconded that the accounts payable be filed for the Annual Audit. Ms. Lauver conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Briggs, Claggett, Dawson, Hedgepeth, Lease, Manfred, Moore, Vaughan, Worsham, Henderson

Nays: none

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

None

Board Member Comments/Announcements

Ms. Hedgepeth – Rawls Museum Arts remains closed for repairs, but expects a flurry of activity as supplies arrive in the next week to begin work in kitchen.

Ms. Henderson – The outside of the Franklin branch has been cleaned. Please observe buildings in respective localities for needed repairs/maintenance. Continue to follow library related bills in the Virginia Legislature.

Ms. Moore – Waverly Friends hosted a successful paint night. Sussex County Administrator and Mr. Neal plan to attend the next event. Wakefield Friends will host a Captain Bob's fundraiser on March 22, please contact Ms. Moore for tickets. Both branches continue to host book clubs.

Mr. Worsham – expressed importance of partnerships and outreach

Mr. Neal – annual book drive in Isle Of Wight and Surry sponsored by the Deltas begins on March 1

Announcement of Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Blackwater Regional Library Board of Trustees will be at 3:00 p.m. on March 15, 2023 at the Franklin Branch.

Adjournment

Ms. Lease moved, and Ms. Dawson seconded the meeting be adjourned. Ms. Lauver conducted a roll call vote.

Ayes: Briggs, Claggett, Dawson, Hedgepeth, Lease, Manfred, Moore, Vaughan, Worsham, Henderson

Nays: none

The meeting was adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Carter for
Terri Hedgepeth, Secretary