

Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes – April 26, 2022

The meeting could not be called to order at noon in the *George S. Hale Community Room* by Board Chair Alpha Alexander because of a lack of quorum.

Attendance: Alpha Alexander; Roxanne Bowen, Teresa Ayers, Shelly Shropshire, MH Library director, and Sara Egan, regional librarian. Absent were Kay Senter; Debra Williams, Rob Reel, Liz Campbell, David Tilson, Dwayne Nelson, Kevin Smith, and Treva Purkey.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from the March meeting will be considered at the May meeting. It was noted that the March meeting minutes should include Sara Egan and not Jennifer Bruner as being present; the April minutes will be amended to correct.

Treasurer's Report

- Treasurer, Debra Williams, provided the board with the financial report (July 2021 through March 2022; 75 percent of budget) and will present the financial report at the May meeting. This will be 100 percent for the year.

Public Comment – Regarding Agenda Items Only

- No comments

Committee Reports

- Finance – Debra Williams, Chair
 - No report.
- Personnel – Elizabeth Campbell, Chair
 - No report.
- Policies – Kay Senter, Chair
 - No report. An email with possible policy changes will be sent to trustees and considered at the May meeting.
 - Also discussed was a date for necessary committee meetings, possibly the second week of the month.
- Long Range Planning
 - No report
- Building and Grounds – David Tilson, Chair
 - No report
- Nominating and Public Relations – Debra Williams, Chair
 - A slate of officers will be considered at the April meeting. It was suggested the following for a one-year term: Alexander, chair; Bowen, vice chair; Ayers, secretary; Purkey, treasurer.
 - Reel, Smith, and Bowen will be considered at the May meeting for another three-year term as trustee.
 - It was announced, but no action taken, that Tilson would be rolling off the board, Nelson had resigned, and the two new trustees to be considered will be Phyllis Ehresman and Mike Reed, both of whom have agreed to serve.
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- Purchasing – Treva Purkey, Chair
 - No report

Unfinished Business

- The completion of trustee qualifications will be announced at the May meeting.

Public Comment – General

- Visitor Todd Frommeyer addressed the board of trustees. Addressing the chair, he said the board has been hypertechnical. He said he has been the only person who has tried to address the board and the board has tried to stand on formalities instead of just letting him speak, which would have been “nothing” and instead it has been very adversarial. He said he is the chair of the Hamblen County Democrats and a candidate for office and since the first of the year he has been going to board and committee meetings in Hamblen County and Morristown in general “to see what it’s like and to see who’s who.” He said some go out of their way to greet me and ask if he has questions, but this is the only meeting where he has been both ignored at times and it has been hostile toward him. He said he wanted to clear the air about the last two meetings because he was here for the meeting in February and was asked to leave because an employee was being terminated. He said, “No, because it is the public’s right to come to a public meeting.” He was going to talk about that last month and Mr. Tilson said you have to request to speak, but the library website did not have that information. He said he should have been able to speak last month. He concluded that he had been treated like the enemy. He said he has no problem with the library director, but with the board.

Information

- The board was provided with copies of Public Comment Guidelines, the public comment procedures for individuals who address the board, and the opening statement guidelines made by the chair prior to public comments. It was discussed that these were not on the board’s website since the web provider was hacked two months ago. This is being corrected with all information available on the website.

Morristown-Hamblen Library Director - Director Shropshire provided the following report:

- Recommended library stay at current level of COVID-19 services: masks requested but not required for staff and patrons; curbside available on request.
- There are no current cases of COVID-19.

Mentioned Training:

- Tracy and Shelly attended the TLA Conference in Knoxville.
- Bobbie continues to attend Spanish Language classes.

Events:

- The next LEGO club meeting will be 1-2 p.m., Saturday, April 30
- STEAM Night will be 4-5 p.m., Tuesday, April 26
- Read to a Dog has the dates posted on the children’s room door.
- Storytime is held in person and on-line at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays.
- Craft with the Staff was held with Amanda this month and demonstrated the skill of painting with broccoli. The May Craft with the Staff will be held by Shelly and will be an octopus out of yarn in conjunction with the Summer Reading Theme “Oceans of

- Opportunity”.
- A Summer Reading Program Advertisement will be in the SOMO SALA and GFWC Ladies Reading Circle circular in the Citizen Tribune for the Celebration of Tables in May.
 - Registration for the Summer Reading begins May 25. Fliers are almost ready to be distributed.
 - The fundraiser play was a success. Everyone enjoyed the fun style of the play with free will adlibs. The food was great and the staff and volunteers worked hard. There were 120 + tickets sold for approximately \$1,800 raised. A full report of all donations and expenditures will be given at the next board meeting in May.
 - The Library is working with the Thread and Thimble Quilt Guild to teach children the art of quilting. The six-week program on Saturdays will incorporate sewing machines to create a project that will be donated to a person in need.

Regional Library Report - Director Egan provided the following report:

- Announced training opportunities which will be provided in calendar form.
- Said the search for a new assistant director will pause until late summer.

Meeting Adjourned until the fourth Tuesday in May.

Respectfully submitted by,

Teresa Ayers
Secretary