

Hamblen County Library Board of Trustees Meeting

Minutes for November 1, 2022

The meeting was called to order in the upstairs meeting room by President of the Board, Dr. Alpha Alexander.

Attendance: Dr. Alpha Alexander, Jennifer Breuer (Holston River Regional Library Director), Elizabeth Campbell, Dr. Christy Cowan, Dr. Devin Edwards, Phyllis Ehresman, Shelly Shropshire (M-H Library Director), & James Crane, CPA

James Crane, CPA, representing the Morristown Hamblen Imagination Library Advisory Council (MHIMLAC) was present to address concerns about the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the MHIMLAC and the Morristown-Hamblen Library.

- Kay Senter stated that this should be considered New Business and Dr. Alexander concurred.
- The MOU was presented to the Board during the meeting on 9/27/22.
- Shelley Shropshire asked clarifying questions including:
 1. Will donations that require a letter from a 501(c)(3) entity go through the Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF)?
 - Mr. Crane answered yes, and that Jacob Edwards with GELF also said this was the best course of action.
 2. Is there documentation from the Dollywood Foundation that they approve the MOU as it is currently stated?
 - Mr. Crane said there was correspondence between MHIMLAC and the Dollywood Foundation indicating their support, but there was no document explicitly approving the MOU. He also indicated that there is correspondence from Jacob Edwards (GELF) in favor of the MOU.
 - Mr. Crane also stated that the only reason the library's FEIN number was needed was to open a bank account.
- Additional information provided by Mr. Crane:
 1. Donations from the City of Morristown or Hamblen County do not go through GELF
 2. Donations will not be filed using the FEIN number provided by the Library
 3. GELF receives money for the program and is distributed through the MHIML
- Dr. Alexander indicated that the board would vote today (quorum was met) and Shelley Shropshire would be in touch with MHIMLAC.

Public Comment: Chan Lui was present for comment and the meeting. Items he shared with the Board:

- He expressed gratitude and appreciation for the library
- He indicated he had placed a book on hold in August and had not received any follow up concerning its arrival. Mr. Lui also mentioned that he had received conflicting information from different library staff members concerning this reserved book.
- Mr. Lui indicated that he believes the library should have a subscription to the Citizen Tribune as well as surrounding newspapers. This is important because the newspaper contains legal announcements that you may not be able to find elsewhere.
- He also proposed checkout time limits (30 minutes-1 hour) for newspapers in the library.
- Mr. Lui utilized the entire 3 minutes for comment.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes were reviewed and no changes were suggested.

Treasurer's Report:

No report.

Committee Reports:

- **Finance** - Kevin Smith, Chair: not present, no report
- **Personnel** - Elizabeth Campbell, Chair: no report
- **Policies** - Kay Senter, Chair: Waiting to hear from Jeff Crantford
- **Long Range Planning** - Kevin Smith, Chair: not present, no report
- **Building and Grounds** - Rob Reel, Chair, not present, no report
- **Nominating-Public Relations** - Elizabeth Campbell, Chair: no report
- **Purchasing** - Treva Purkey, Chair: not present, no report
 - Kay Senter suggested sending a card of support to Treva

Unfinished Business: No unfinished business.

Director Report (provided beforehand via email):

- Sherry Ramsey is retiring after serving the library for 35 years. A card was signed by the Board for Sherry.
- There were no questions.

New Business:

- Dr. Alexander and the Board began discussing the MOU with MHIMLAC.
- Christy Cowan made the motion to approve the MOU with MHIMLAC after receiving documentation concerning the Dollywood Foundation's support of that understanding. The motion was seconded by Devin Edwards.
- Kay Senter called for the question and the vote was unanimous to approve the MOU.

Regional Library Report: Jennifer Breuer

- Jennifer Breuer provided the group with 2 regional newsletters.
- There are upcoming trainings for mental health first aid, which will be shared with Michelle Jones and the City of Morristown (Kay Senter mentioned this)
- Alpha Alexander, Phyllis Ehresman, Kay Senter, and Elizabeth Campbell all attended the in-person training on October 19th.

There was no other business.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned by Dr. Alexander at 12:53 p.m.

Minutes taken by Christy Cowan