

**Loudon County Library Board Meeting
Tuesday, Sept. 7th, 2023
Philadelphia Public Library**

Call to Order: 5:00pm by Chair Ruth McQueen

Present:

Trustees: Ruth McQueen, Cindy Benefield, Pauline Barbour, Diane Strever, Brandy Styer, Amy Jo Cook and Beth Waldmann

Directors: Kate Clabough, Mark Williams, Susan Dorsey and Carol De Forest

Absent: Trustee JoAnn Hart, Excused; Trustee Eileen Connolly, Excused

Public Comment: Mr. Brian Beck, Commented on June incident at Loudon Public Library story time. Beck exceeded public comment period by 10 minutes.

Safety & Security Issues in Public Libraries: McQueen asked library directors to write a memo answering the following questions: What is in place at your library for safety? What is a safety need at your library? What would make you feel safe coming to work every day?

Agenda: Benefield made the motion to accept the minutes of the July 27, 2023 meeting. Cook seconded. Motion carried.

Ocoee River Regional Library Report: Nikki Snyder discussed the public library service agreement. The regional report included upcoming training opportunities. Data collection is currently underway. The upcoming trustee workshop will cover the changes to the library service agreement. De Forest is a recipient of a tech grant.

County Liaison: No report.

Committee Reports:

Budget: No report.

Bylaws: No report.

Community Outreach: The grand opening of the storybook trail was held on Wednesday, August 23rd at 10:00am in Lenoir City on the Town Creek Greenway at Rock Springs Park. An estimated 80 people attended the event. Fifty copies of "The Coat of Many Colors" was given away. Several local leaders were in attendance including Lenoir City Mayor Tony Aikens and several members of Lenoir City City Council. All were thrilled with the trail and even asked what else they could do to help our libraries. Three representatives from Lenoir City Schools also attended. They are also thrilled with the trail and efforts to include the Spanish speaking community. As for media coverage, Waldmann did an interview with a local radio station about the trail. It ran before and after the event. Both WATE and WVLT sent camera crews to cover

the grand opening. Those reports have not aired yet. The Loudon County News-Herald sent a reporter/photographer and that article was in the Wednesday, Sept. 6th newspaper. The Governor's Early Literacy Foundation (GELF) sent a representative. She was thrilled with the trail and turnout for the grand opening. She even sent an email congratulating us again when she returned to Nashville. Dorsey and Waldmann are already working on the final report on the storybook trail to get to GELF. (That is a requirement of the grant we received.) Waldmann also met the executive director of the Loudon County Education Foundation (LCEF). The group raises money to help area schools and also handles the Imagination Library for Loudon County. The director said she was disappointed we didn't reach out to LCEF to work on the storybook trail because of their interest in early literacy. Waldmann apologized and said we would love to work with them in the future.

Personnel: No report.

Directors Reports: Reports attached.

Lenoir City: An instructor from the Tennessee School for the Deaf will be offering staff training on how to find interpreters and available resources for deaf and hard of hearing patrons. Dorsey requested for four days to take inventory. Barbour made the motion to approve Lenoir City Public Library closure for inventory. Styer seconded. Motion carries.

Loudon: Local author book signing held at the Loudon Public Library.

Tellico Village: Friends of the Library has created a special account for the incoming donations in response to the POA defunding the Tellico Village budget. DeForest attends the Friends of the Library board meetings.

Greenback: No report additions.

Philadelphia: No report additions.

Update to DAR Request: The DAR request to store records at the Lenoir City Public Library will be moved to the next meeting. Dorsey still researching request.

Imagination Library & LCEF: McQueen met with Loudon County Education Foundation (LCEF) executive director Michelle Lewis. Imagination Library for Loudon County costs \$25,000 per year. Help is needed to continue Imagination Library in Loudon County. Will explore and consider ways the Loudon County Library Board might help to discuss further at the next meeting.

Board Meeting Date: The next board meeting will take place on Thursday, Nov. 2nd at the Loudon Public Library.

Adjournment: 6:15pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Beth Waldmann, Secretary

Attachments:

Ocoee River Regional Report

Director Reports